The Middlebury Campus

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Burger to Leave College

Led rebrand of the Middlebury institution; Was a central figure in the Murray saga

By SARAH ASCH
Editor at Large

Bill Burger, the college's vice president for communications and chief marketing officer, will leave his position on April 30. President Laurie L. Patton announced Burger's departure in an all-school email on Feb. 14. According to the email, Burger will remain as one of Patton's senior advisors until June 30.

Patton said the college will immediately begin the search for Burger's successor and that she hopes to hire someone before the fall. Until then, Robin Grunland, the current associate vice president of marketing and creative services, will serve as his interim replacement, beginning May 1.

Burger leaves behind a complicated legacy, as many in the college community associate him closely with his role in the controversial Charles Murray protest and its aftermath in March 2017.

While news of his departure came as a surprise to some, Burger said he told Patton over a year ago that he intended to leave the role. He said the demanding nature of jobs like his cause increased turnover, not just at Middlebury, but at similar institutions. Of the 11 NESCAC schools, Burger is currently the third-longest serving head of communications.

"I think from an institutional perspective it makes sense for the transition to happen now," he said. "Middlebury is embarking on several long-term projects, and continuity will be helpful."

Among these projects, Burger named the continued implementation of Envisioning Middlebury and an upcoming fundraising campaign.

Patton did not return a request for comment on Burger's departure.

Leaving His Mark

In her email, Patton detailed some of Burger's contributions to Middlebury, including his role in increasing the college's social media presence and his influence on the award-winning Middlebury Magazine. Patton also praised Burger's work in integrating the various parts of the Middlebury institution under one identity.

"He arrived at a point of critical transition as Middlebury began to fully embrace the complexity of its schools and programs and the need to think strategically about its identity and operations," Patton said in the email. "He led the institution through the successful introduction of a new identity system that linked all our schools and programs"

Patton also described Burger's relationship with The Campus, writing, "Bill has regularly and effectively worked with individual students, coaching on ethics, reporting, and best practices, and with editors at The Campus, while always respecting the independence of student journalism."

Ellie Reinhardt '17, a former editor in chief of The Campus, worked with Burger during the time of the Murray protest, and recalled having a productive relationship with Burger's office.

"He constantly challenged me and challenged the staff, pushing us to reflect and refine our processes and our content," she said. "He held The Campus to the highest standard of journalism, gave candid feedback and demanded professionalism. I will always appreciate his candor."

Ethan Brady '18, another former editor in chief, disagreed with Patton's description of The Campus' relationship with Burger. Brady said that he and Burger had different views of the role The Campus should play in the Middlebury community. He recalled a meeting with Burger and Patton in which both expressed they believed the paper was publishing too many negative stories.

"He articulated this idea that The Campus is a morale booster or a community builder, and if we print negative coverage or bad coverage then we're not doing our job," Brady said.

After this meeting, The Campus ran an editorial pushing back on the request for more positive coverage and affirming the paper's independence from the Communications Office.

"There's no such thing as negative coverage if it's accurate and factual,"

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Bill Burger in his Old Chapel office. He will leave his position in April.

Thibault Lannoy '20

1997-2019

Remembered on Page 2

The Campus asked friends to provide photographs of Lannoy. In doing so, one friend said this was his favorite photograph of himself.

And the Oscar Goes to... Midd Alums!

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

Two Middlebury alumni won Oscars at last Sunday's Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Rodney Rothman '95, who co-wrote and co-directed "Into the Spider-Verse," won the award for best animated feature film, and producer and writer Brian Currie '83 accepted awards for best original screenplay and best picture for "Green Book."

For Rothman, the Oscars ceremony was a culmination of three years working on "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and 25 years in the industry. The animated film, which focuses on a teenager named Miles Morales who becomes the new Spider-Man, was produced by Sony Pictures Animation, and is the first non-Disney or Pixar film to win in eight years.

Rothman described winning the Oscar as a surreal experience.

"It really wasn't until the next morning in some ways that I could even begin to get my head around the fact that something I'd been working really hard toward for a long time had happened," he said. "Something that I never really expect was going to happen for me."

COURTESY PHOTO

Rothman (center) and his co-directors, Peter Ramsey (left) and Bob Persichetti, on Sunday.

For Rothman and his co-creators, "Spider-Verse" was an ambitious project that fell outside of their comfort zones.

"We weren't working for Pixar or Disney, we were just making a movie that we thought was really cool and that we were psyched about, and we were trying to do things in a movie that we had never done before," Rothman said.

However, that ambition paid off, and "Spider-Verse," as Rothman put it, "took on a life of its own." Through the support and enthusiasm of fans, the film saw massive success.

Middlebury Professor of Film & Media Culture Jason Mittell praised the film in an email to The Campus.

"Spider-Verse was certainly the best animated film I've seen in years, and arguably the most effective superhero film — including live-action — ever made in capturing the essence of the comics genre," Mittell wrote. "The animation style was groundbreaking in a way that supported its storytelling and tone, using visuals to make a very complex story both comprehensible and emotionally engaging."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Rothman was a member of Otter Nonsense Players at Middlebury.

New Dining Initiative Brings Students, Faculty and Staff Together for Meals

By PORTER BOWMAN
Staff Writer

Dining halls are hubs for students to take breaks, catch up with friends and talk about their days. They serve as classic forums for both impromptu get-togethers and planned meetings.

Sophomore Student Government Association (SGA) Senator Eun Ho Lee '21 saw an opportunity in these gatherings as the perfect places to foster conversations between Middlebury students and the faculty and staff that serve as essential parts of the college community. After several months of work last fall, he created a new program: The Faculty/Staff Student Tables.

The inspiration for the program came from Lee's high school experience.

"When I first came to the U.S for the first time as an international student five years ago, I was socially awkward," he said. "My daily conversations with my English lit teacher, music teacher, and many others gave me the courage to reach out to American students and to really get out of comfort zone."

When Lee came to Middlebury, he wanted to form similarly-close relationships with his professors. He admitted that he has struggled balancing getting good grades with getting to know faculty and staff on a personal level.

Lee then began to think about how he could facilitate such relationships.

"If we wanted to socialize with students and not with faculty, we could have easily gone to one of the big state schools," Lee said. "But we didn't."

Lee's idea for the Faculty/Staff Student Tables program is to match students and faculty/staff for meals on Thursdays. The groups can then learn about one another and connect through conversation.

Lee said that he will have two separate Google forms: one for students and one for faculty and staff. Interested participants can fill out their respective forms by Sunday night and Lee will then match up students and faculty/staff members.

Lee is still facing some funding challenges, but he hopes to get the program into operation in the next few weeks. He will be looking to the SGA Finance committee as well as specific departments to fund the meals for faculty and staff who do not have a meal

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REID SMITH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

PBS White House Correspondent Yamiche Alcindor shared her journey and offered advice to students about following their passions and building a support system at a talk in Mead Chapel on Friday, Feb. 22. Page 9.

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Women's hockey scores win against Camels
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REMEMBERING THIBAULT LANNOY '20

Thibault died by suicide at his parents' home in Hong Kong last month. He was 21. On Friday, and in individual comments to The Campus, members of the college community and Thibault's family remembered him as deep-thinking, energetic and intelligent.

By ELAINE VELIE
Editor at Large

"He had a unique spirit. There's no one like him," said Matt Ravichandran '20, a close friend of Thibault's who lived with him in Allen Hall his first year and played soccer with him.

Ravichandran was one of many friends, family and members of the college community who remembered Thibault as wildly passionate, spontaneous and contemplative.

Thibault attended the French International School of Hong Kong and then spent a year at the Berkshire School in western Massachusetts. At Middlebury, Thibault studied Physics and Chinese, played junior varsity soccer, joined Tavern social house and worked at the Bicentennial Hall observatory.

"During the year and a half that I knew Thibault, I was touched by his intellectual curiosity and his quiet enthusiasm," said Jonathan Kemp, his observatory supervisor. "He often shared his other interests with me, from physics to food and farming, and those discussions were always engaging and enlightening."

This past summer, the observatory diversified the languages spoken there to accommodate Language School students. "Thibault was an important part of that effort," Kemp said, recalling that he taught people about the stars in Mandarin and French.

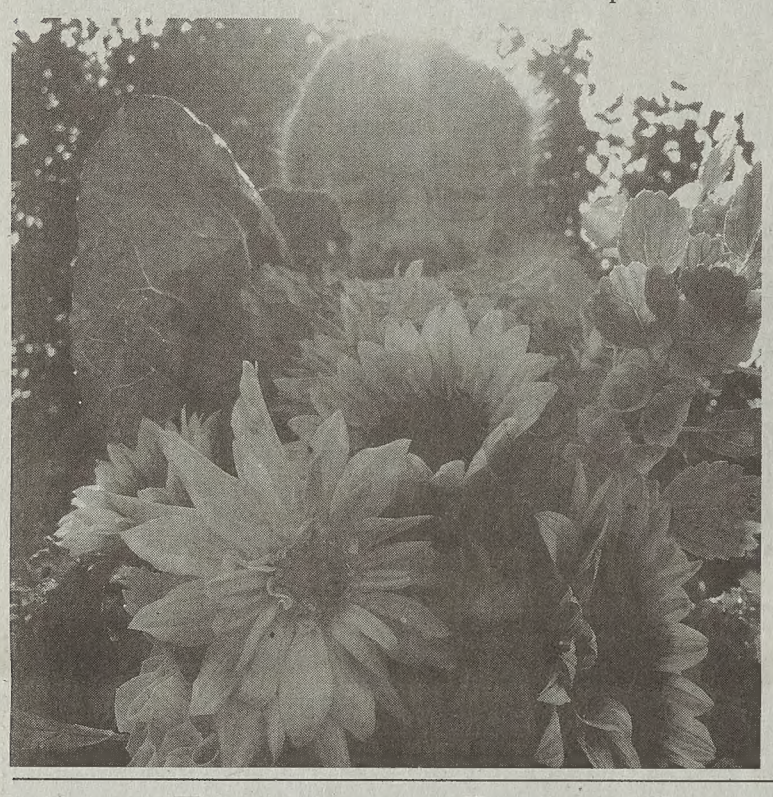
When not gazing up at distant stars, Thibault was fascinated by the nature that surrounded him. "He was at peace in and around nature," said his friend Murt Afghan '20. "He loved Thoreau, which made sense." Ravichandran and Afghan remember Thibault deciding to go hiking on a whim, and once, making them walk through the woods to McDonald's only to come back empty-handed because it was closed.

Alongside his job at the observatory, Thibault also interned at The Knoll. His supervisor there, Megan Brakeley '06, remembers him fondly. "I was so grateful to have the summer at The Knoll to get to know Thibault — and a French World Cup Championship, no less," she said. She remembers Thibault trying to sneak away from the farm to watch France play.

Thibault and Brakeley's conversations at The Knoll, working side by side for hours in the Vermont summer heat, ranged from the witty to the philosophical. "To start the season, Thibault was probably more comfortable digging into philosophical principles or European History than the soil, but as a deep questioner with a curious mind, he was quick to learn," Brakeley said.

"He wanted to be a farmer on the outskirts of France after this summer," Ravichandran said. "He got so excited when he got fixated on an idea, and he'd say and do wild and spontaneous things when he was in that mood."

Thibault had a spark below his seemingly shy exterior. "He was so energetic. No one was as expressive in those moments as he was. He was wildly spontaneous when he would get into those fits, which only came every so often," Ravichandran said. He recounted a time when they went to South Carolina, and Thibault became obsessed with learning the guitar. "He downloaded all these apps and everything," Ravichandran said. "After that trip, I don't think he ever touched a guitar again."



Ravichandran and Afghan played junior varsity soccer with Thibault. "He was really good," they said, a sentiment also shared by students he played against on the intramural level. His high school soccer coach once said that the team had one strategy — "Pass the ball to Thibault."

Thibault was in his element on the soccer field. "He had really good potential to be a leader, and he made the team more organized. He came into himself," Afghan said. "He was much less reserved and more boisterous and talkative," Ravichandran said. "He was also more expressive in what he wore. He would always wear a Barcelona jersey, and these black pants, and the original Mercurial cleats."

"He had these tiny shin guards that were down around his ankles. They weren't protecting anything," Ravichandran recalled, as he and Afghan laughed together.

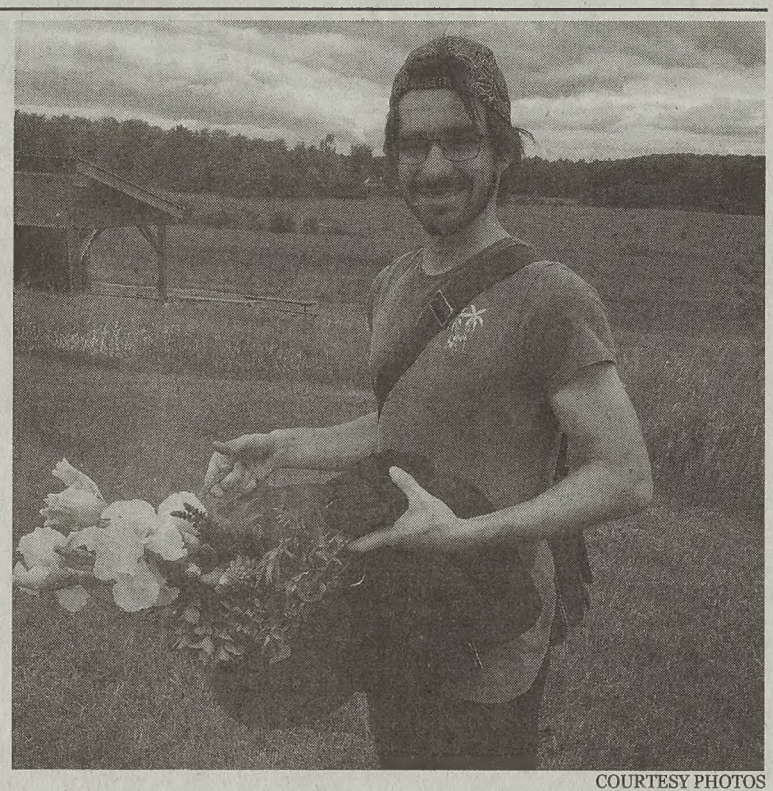
"He was a very funny guy, and I so admired his boldness to do goofy things no matter who saw," said Kieran Parikh '19, another friend of Thibault's. He recounted a time Thibault bounced off the walls of Proctor, yelling "Parkour! Straight from ze streets of Paris!"

"Come to think of it, I think he actually did that on more than one occasion," Parikh said.

Ravichandran remembers doing homework in BiHall with Thibault one Saturday after having watched "I Origins," a science fiction movie. They were talking about their theories of the universe. Thibault became invested in his theory. 'We just have to figure out the math,' he said. 'We can drop out of college if this gets big enough.'

"It was ridiculous," Ravichandran said, laughing.

Afghan remembers a time when, after a few things had gone missing, he and Thibault convinced a resident of the Arabic House that someone else was living there, maybe in the attic. "Public Safety had to make sure that there was no one there," Afghan said, laughing again.



COURTESY PHOTOS

"He was a fun and loyal friend, always ready to go to whatever party or event no matter who else might be going or how much work he might have had," Parikh said.

Thibault joined Tavern after living there for a semester. "He was an integral part of that community," said his friend Matt Ottomano '20.

Thibault's memorial service took place in Mead Chapel last Friday. After an introduction by Reverend Andrew Nagy-Benson, several people spoke — President Laurie L. Patton, Brakeley, a family friend, his godmother and two of his friends. Those in attendance had time to quietly reflect as pictures of Thibault were projected on a screen onstage and music played.

"He thought about things more than other people do, just about normal things," Ravichandran said. "I think I do too, not to the same extent, but I think that's why we became such close friends. He was a friend like no other."

This idea was echoed throughout the memorial service and in private conservations about Thibault — Thibault thought about things, deeply. He was passionate. These were some of the reasons why his friends and family loved him so much.

In her speech, Patton talked about ways in which we can deal with death, noting that some turn to God, others to nature.

"It is particularly hard when death was the person's own decision," Patton said. "We might feel stigma and isolation: is it okay to talk about this? How can I live with this loss when it feels different than other losses? We have mixed emotions; in addition to experiencing the absence that is suddenly in our lives, we might be struggling with guilt. Could we have done or said something differently that last time we saw Thibault? We might be feeling an intense need to understand why, and find it so hard to accept that there are some things that we might never know," Patton said.

She talked about her own last encounters with Thibault. After Thibault and another intern sent her flowers from The Knoll last summer, she emailed Thibault to thank him and ask for The Knoll's visiting hours. Thibault sent a thoughtful and informative response, but Patton was away during the open days. Months later, at a Middlebury event in Hong Kong, Patton and Thibault spoke again, this time about philosophy, but their conversation was cut short.

"And so I too struggled after I heard the news," Patton said. "What if I had visited The Knoll? What if we had finished the conversation?"

It seems that many who knew Thibault have stories like Patton's.

"We cannot make sense of this profound, painful puzzle of Thibault's death," Patton continued. "But we can, I think, make sense of and tell each other about his life. Our work is to weave stories from the abundant evidence of his deep and abiding loves — the gifts that Thibault continues to give us. Our task is to carry forward his love for knowledge. And for teaching."

In every speech at the memorial service and in every conversation about Thibault, it became clearer how many people loved Thibault, and just how much.

"My friendship was him was very unlike anyone else on this campus," Ravichandran said.

"There are only a handful of people with whom I think I could sit and talk for hours, but Thibault was one of them," Parikh said. "He was a brilliant person and a loyal friend who was, and remains, loved by many."

Burger to Leave Post in April

Continued from Page 1

Brady said. "The school should not be immune to any sort of scrutiny."

Brady acknowledged that Burger was simply doing his job in trying to protect the image of the school. Still, as editor in chief, Brady had a different view of the newspaper's purpose.

"The duty of The Campus is to provide a check on the institution," he said.

Role in the Murray Protests

Outside the newsroom, many students associate Burger with the role he played in the Murray protest.

As the protest played out, Burger planned to shuttle Murray and Political Science Professor Allison Stanger, the talk's mediator, away from the event. The official college account, published by the college newsroom, said that Burger accelerated away from McCullough Student Center and that students jumped onto the hood of his car after it had begun to move. In the aftermath, many students disputed that account, alleging that Burger drove through the crowd and into protestors, at one point accelerating with a student on the hood of his car.

Sarah Karerat '18, who was among those put on probation for her involvement in the Murray protest, said that for her Burger represented the administration's effort to punish her and her fellow students for their actions.

"He became a figurehead of the anxiety and fear of the administration that we had about how the judicial process was going to affect our futures," she said. "He was the voice of the protest policy that night, and one of the things that sticks out to me is in the whole free speech argument was that the protest policy and the judicial process eventually became censorship in its own right. And in a public manner he represents that censorship."

Throughout the judicial process and after, when Karerat had already received her two semesters of probation, she recalls feeling anxious often. This feeling was accentuated in the presence of administrators who she associated with the protest and the trial, including Burger.

"Whenever I saw him in public spaces I was pretty immediately uncomfortable and afraid. At the beginning, that spring of 2017, I usually would leave spaces because of that discomfort," she said.

Life After Middlebury

Burger intends to take some time to decide on his next move. He and his wife Susan Greenberg, who teaches writing and journalism at the college, plan to remain in Middlebury for the next year and a half. Greenberg will continue to teach in that time.

"I've spent time in media, the corporate sector, and higher education," Burger said. "I've enjoyed working in all of those fields and so I don't rule out anything for the future."

He also noted that he is proud of the work his team has accomplished during his tenure.

"Middlebury has become a more transparent place than ever before," Burger said. "We are more willing to engage with the media in good times and challenging times. There's not a lot of room for hiding in today's media environment and the best institutions — and I'm proud to say Middlebury is one of them — must be accepting of being in the public eye more than was the case even a decade ago. That's been a growing experience for some people, but there's no going back."

GiGi Hogan contributed reporting.

DIVESTMENT TIMELINE

COURTESY PHOTO

Visit middleburycampus.com for an in-depth timeline of the Divest Middlebury movement.

Initiative Brings Students, Faculty and Staff Together

Continued from Page 1

plan in the campus dining halls.

Feb Senator Bobbi Finkelstein '21.5 showed support for the program as a way to improve relationships between students and faculty and staff.

"Our dining and facilities staff work consistently throughout campus, in our dorms and dining halls, and are rarely appreciated and thanked," she said.

John Schurer '21, who serves as sophomore senator and the SGA speaker, thinks the program will have a significant impact on the campus.

"Even in a small community like Middlebury, it is understandable that students, staff and faculty associate in separate circles," he said. He believes the program will help people meet individuals who they might not have interacted with otherwise.

After The Campus' staff issue over Winter Term, SGA has made a concerted effort to find new ways to support faculty and staff.

"I hope that Eun Ho's faculty/staff-student tables can improve the relationship between students and staff members by encouraging respect and recognition for all the work they do," Finkelstein said.

Former CRA Steve Zatarain Returns as New Atwater CRD

By CAROLINE KAPP
News Editor

To the excitement of many students, Steve Zatarain '15 returned to campus last week to serve as the new interim Atwater Commons Residence Director (CRD).

Students in Atwater Commons received notification of his arrival in an email last Monday from Atwater Dean Scott Barnicle, announcing that Zatarain will serve as CRD until the end of the semester. He is filling a spot that was left vacant by Doug Desrochers, who left the position in January.

Zatarain has a long history with Atwater. He was a member of the commons as a student, served as an First Year Counselor (FYC) and Community Assistant, and also worked for two years as Atwater Commons Resident Assistant (CRA) — the predecessor position to CRD.

During a recent, coincidental trip to Middlebury, Barnicle said he asked Zatarain if he would be interested in the job.

"It was one of those cool moments where necessity creates creativity," Barnicle said in an email to The Campus.

"It was a unique opportunity," Zatarain told The Campus. He expressed excitement about seeing students graduate this spring who were first-years when he was in his first year as a CRA.

Several members of Atwater cited Zatarain's upbeat personality and passion for creating community as two of his strengths.

"His people skills, compassion and professionalism are exemplary," Barnicle said, adding that, due to his previous experience, Zatarain was able to step into the job part way through the year with relative ease.

Atwater Commons Head Sandra Carletti believes that Zatarain's easy-going attitude will have a positive impact on the community.

"After spending the last year and a half working for the Posse Foundation in Los Angeles, he is bringing back to Vermont an even more accentuated California vibe," she said.

Sandhya Sewnauth '20 is currently an FYC in Allen and was a first-year during Zatarain's last year as CRD. She expressed that, while she was sad to see Desrochers leave, she is happy to have Zatarain return to Atwater.

"Stevie brings such refreshing energy to our team in a new semester and it feels very natural to have him back," she said. Sewnauth recalled his positivity and inclusive attitude from his time as CRA.

"I really love supporting students, that's something I have a passion for," Zatarain said. He has maintained these passions since his time as a Middlebury student, and said that his most rewarding work in Residential Life was when he served as a FYC and got to build a community on his hall to support transitioning first-year students.

Students often express confusion about what the role of CRD entails. To Zatarain, CRD is a community-building position, which to him means constantly being a presence on campus.

Barnicle similarly said that "caring about people and representing the institution" were the main responsibilities of the position.

Zatarain also acknowledged there will be challenges in his new position. He recognized that students often do not have time to take part in programing.

"I'm trying the gauge the room," he said, explaining that he is talking to Residential Life members about what they want. He is trying to find ways to make programming relaxing, de-stressing and more accessible for students who often have a packed schedule.

Barnicle recognized the difficulties Zatarain might face adjusting to the new systems that have been put in place since he served as a CRA. Zatarain said that he is currently navigating the differences between being a CRA and a CRD, as well as figuring out these new structures.

"The key values of it, of being thoughtful for students, supporting folks and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity will all be there," Zatarain said.

When asked why he was excited to have Steve join the Atwater ResLife Team, Barnicle rejected the use of the term "join."

"Rejoin!" Barnicle said. "He was Atwater for six years, it's a for-life thing."

Middlebury Dancers Find Traction on Revamped Rec Center Floors

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY – Following three days of physical labor and over three months of planning, Middlebury's Recreation Center at 154 Creek Road received a new dance floor last week. The brainchild of Christal Brown, Chair of the college's Dance Department, the floor's upgrade came to fruition after being a goal of hers for about a year and a half.

Brown directs and oversees Dance Xplorations, which has used the Rec Center space and will benefit from the newly installed floor. The group offers 10-week sessions in ballet, jazz, contemporary and hip-hop "designed to increase body awareness, technical trainings, confidence, and performance skills," according to the organization's Facebook page.

"Before last week's installation, the floor was just a regular linoleum concrete floor," said Brown. "It just wasn't designed for dance."

Dancing on concrete forces one's bones and joints to absorb the energy exerted when they jump and move. The new floor installation aims to keep shin splints and other injuries and discomforts to a minimum.

"Dance floors are very particular," explained Brown. "They are floors that are lifted off the ground, providing a certain level of buoyancy so that the shock absorption between joints over time is not harmful to the body. It's the same way that a basketball court is designed for basketball."

Brown had been hoping to update the floor since 2017 when she began working at a program at the Rec Center, but the idea became more concrete following her 40th birthday party on Nov. 17, 2018, a bash that she hosted at the Town Hall Theater.

"For my birthday I wanted to ask people to contribute to something different than the larger Facebook campaigns," Brown said. "I wanted to make sure that the impact was felt immediately by the community that I am a part of and that I work with."

Brown chose to gear her birthday party towards creating positive change in the community by making it a fundraiser for the project.

"I wanted to make sure that my party was not only fun for me and had a real celebratory mood, but that the impact of the giving could be felt by the community and not just in my life," Brown said.

The party raised $2,500, and attracted the attention of Sean Flynn, President of Silver Maple Construction, who decided to involve his company as part of a larger effort to start more pro bono projects.

COURTESY PHOTO
Middlebury professor Christal Brown, who made possible the new floor.

"At Silver Maple, we're looking to start a backlog of pro bono projects," Flynn said. "We're hoping to do either a project every month or maybe a larger one every quarter moving forward from here."

"Silver Maple Construction decided to donate their time and the materials," Brown said. Now, she explained, the money raised at the Town Hall birthday bash will go to scholarships for residents to have greater access to dance classes.

The floor installation has been a resounding success for all parties involved.

"Our company is already strongly involved with the community, but we want to make our involvement more regimented and occurring on a regular basis," said Flynn. "I think that the floor was a great fit in this particular case because it's supportive of the arts but also supportive of people who may not be able to attend a regular dance school. I think it's a win all the way through."

> ***"I think the more creative we are with the resources we do have, the more we can figure out ways to impact other people."***

Brown's experience growing up in a smaller community partially inspired her project idea. "It feels great to give back to the community," she said. "I come from a very small town in North Carolina where I know that the only reason I am who I am is because people invested in me when I was a young person."

Brown recognized how hard it can be to fit giving and charitable acts into already full lives. She continued to say, however, "I think the more creative we are with the resources we do have, the more we can figure out ways to impact other people."

Like Brown, Flynn's decision to help with the dance floor went beyond directly supporting dance and the safety of dancers. He also cited a desire to give back to the Middlebury community as a major motivation for the project.

"Middlebury has been very good for this company," Flynn said, "and I think that it can use a little boost. I think that it feels like we're in a little rough patch lately with things closing and reopening, so having a cohesive community effort that builds community back up is important."

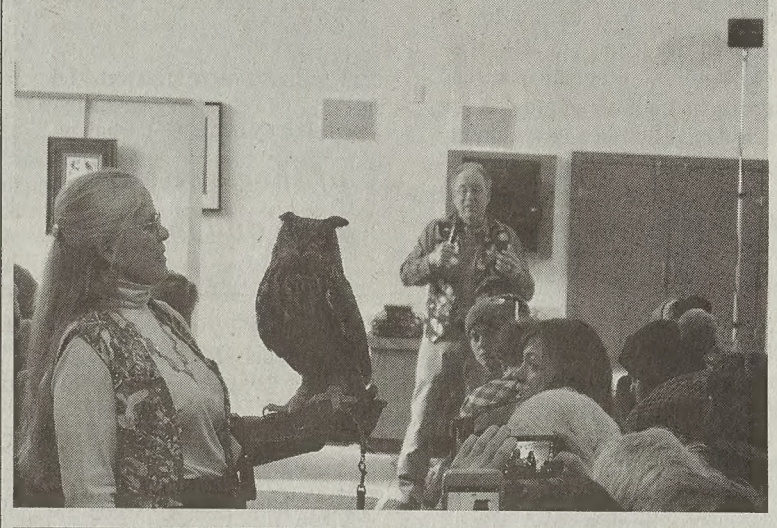
The floor will do exactly that, with spring classes in session as of Monday. It will also provide a space where college students and people of the town of Middlebury can safely move together.

"I'm so excited about the floor," said Dance Major Marquise Adeleye '20. "I can't wait to dance on it, to have my ankles feel great the next day."

Though Flynn himself will not be taking classes anytime soon, Brown encourages anyone interested to try a class.

"Come check it out," she said. "Come dance with us!"

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/dancexmidd or email Dancexplorations@gmail.com.



NICK GARBER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Educators show off a barred owl (top), great horned owl (middle) and screech owl (bottom) at the fourth annual Owl Festival at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Onlookers Ogle Owls at Annual Quechee Festival

By NICK GARBER
Managing Editor

QUECHEE – Last weekend, birding enthusiasts and amateurs alike congregated in the Eastern Vermont village of Quechee for the fourth annual Owl Festival, hosted at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS).

Hundreds of attendees — college students, older couples, families with owl-costumed kids — poured into the VINS campus, ready to meet a few of these predatory birds in the flesh. Or in the feathers.

Scheduled events included "Owls of New England," "Owl Pellet Dissection" and "Owl vs. Hawk," where spectators learned about the differences between owls and raptor species like hawks and eagles. VINS rehabilitates these birds, many of whom have suffered permanent flight impairment after being hit by cars or shot by hunters.

Angie McCarthy '19, who made the 63-mile drive from campus to witness the festival, said her interest in owls had been piqued ever since a barred owl began roosting near her Ridgeline townhouse several months ago.

"It was exciting to see them up close and personal and really understand him and his patterns", McCarthy said of her own winged friend. McCarthy left the festival with more than just this knowledge — she also purchased a new pair of owl earrings.

Direct Democracy, Previewed: This Year's Town Meeting Day

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY – In the 1800s, Middlebury residents faced a problem: pig protocol. Should local pigs be allowed to freely roam the streets? Would it be more beneficial to keep all of them fenced in? Unable to come to a conclusion, those residents did the same thing Vermonters will do next month: they took the issue to that year's Town Meeting.

Held annually for over 200 years, the meeting is a rare holdout of direct democracy designed to allow the voices of Middlebury to be heard on the issues that affect them, their families and their jobs. Although every town in Vermont now holds their own meeting, the first was held in Bennington in 1762, making the tradition older than the state itself (VT was created in 1791.).

The meetings are cornerstones of the town's sense of community, allowing its residents to come together to tackle civic issues. Vermont government employees even get a holiday to attend, and the state grants students over 18 the right to skip school if necessary in order to participate. In fact, many public schools give their students a day off for Town Meeting Day.

So, how does it work? The meeting takes place in two parts. The first is a floor meeting, which features town-wide discourse that gives residents the opportunity to voice their opinions on proposed articles and issues facing the town. This is where most of the action takes place. This year's floor meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Middlebury Union High School auditorium. Anyone registered to vote with a Middlebury address is encouraged to attend, speak and vote.

This includes any Middlebury College student who is registered in Vermont.

Alexander Giles '21, who studied the floor meeting's style of government in the 2019 Winter Term class "Democracy, Deliberation and Global Citizenship," believes it's an invaluable process. "Direct democracy still has great value in localized settings," Giles told The Campus. "It's a great example of bringing the community together in deliberation."

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Middlebury Town Offices on Court St. where elections will be held on Tuesday, March 5.

The second part of the town meeting is the Australian Ballot. Separate from the floor meeting, this is a specific way to vote on proposed articles and mirrors a traditional voting process. The Australian Ballot will take place the following day on Tuesday, March 5 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the town offices at 77 Main St., and any Middlebury voter is welcome to stop in to cast a vote.

Although the floor meeting is more involved, the Australian Ballot process offers another opportunity for political engagement as it often takes on citizen-led initiatives and allows every vote to have an impact in such a small election. The Campus spoke to Brian Carpenter, the Chair of the Middlebury Selectboard (a team of seven elected at the meetings to collaborate on the town's issues throughout the year), about the process. Carpenter expressed that he thinks these votes are particularly valuable.

"Votes will count pretty significantly based on the average turnout," Carpenter said. "It's an opportunity to be heard and either affirm or redirect priorities within the town."

But if not pigs, then what issues are going to be taken on during this year's meeting? As usual, there are plans to vote on a town budget for the upcoming year. There will also be a vote to reelect three members of the Middlebury Selectboard.

Beyond the meeting's typical business, though, this year's floor meeting agenda also includes a vote to allocate funds toward improving the Memorial Sports Center and purchasing new town vehicles, along with other topics to be proposed by residents.

The Australian Ballot is particularly compelling this year, and primarily addresses environmental concerns.

The Middlebury College Sunday Night Environmental Group, or SNEG, has been vocal in encouraging students to turn out on March 5 to support these measures. "Let your voice be heard — help Middlebury take the steps necessary in creating a cleaner, better future for all," read a post on the group's Facebook page.

The vote will address an initiative to ban plastic bags from all Middlebury businesses, which has been spearheaded by Middlebury student Amelia Miller '20 and town resident Amy McAninch.

The ballot will also include a vote to advise the Selectboard to write to the Vermont state leadership in support of the 350VT Climate Solutions Resolution. This act would halt the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and aim to achieve 90 percent renewable energy by 2050 in an equitable fashion.

> ***"It's an opportunity to be heard and either affirm or redirect priorities within the town."***

Voters will also decide whether the town of Middlebury should commit to efforts to install solar panels on town and school buildings, encourage landowners to implement carbon-responsible practices and appropriate $3,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County to bolster affordable housing. These Articles will all be on the ballot on March 5.

Selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter encouraged any eligible Middlebury students to participate. "There are issues that I believe many of them are passionate about," he said. "And it's something quite unique about Vermont."

The Cordwainer on Park Street: A Peek into the Working Life of Leatherworks Owner Dan Freeman

By BENJAMIN GLASS
Local Editor

MIDDLEBURY – When I walked in, it very well looked like Dan Freeman had been in the same spot for most of the day, hunched over his workbench, aligning pieces of dark brown leather together, with nothing but the odd gust of wind bristling against his north-facing window to distract him.

"I'm working a little harder than I usually do," he said, reaching for his glue well. "I talked my doctor into getting a pair of handmade shoes, and it turns out he's really particular." Freeman smirked and brushed a layer of glue on the pressed edges. "I'm already on my fourth model with him."

Freeman wears a tucked-in faded button-down, an aged pair of blue jeans and a leather waist-apron, scratched by edge-bevelers and saturated with dye. His sandy-white mustache is reminiscent of the one your grandfather had, and his straight hair is long enough to creep in front of his round eyeglasses, an annoyance which he frequently attends to by combing his bangs to the side.

"I am good at the 2D to 3D visualizations, and the small motor skills," he said. "Athletics and academics — not so much. But we all have things we're good at, and I guess I was lucky enough to find it."

Of course, Freeman did not "find" shoemaking immediately.

BENJAMIN GLASS/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Freeman's handiwork in action.

His bent for the craft began when he failed out of Duke University as a sophomore and was subsequently drafted into the United States Army as a mortar gunner stationed at Coleman Barracks, outside of Mannheim, Germany.

"It was never fun being in the army," Freeman said, "but I look back on it now and I have nothing to complain about. It taught me that if you don't take steps to control your fate, someone else will take them for you, and you might not like what they choose."

A soldier in 1968, Freeman considered himself lucky not to have fought in Vietnam, where the majority of American draftees were sent at the time. In the spring of 1970, the Philadelphia native finished his deployment, and quickly began work at a friend's sandal shop in Chapel Hill, N.C., only a stone's throw away from his old college town.

> ***"A real shoemaker could make a pair of shoes with a knife and fork."***

"We over-engineered everything and made it all simple and durable. There was traction for that then," he said. "People liked things that were handmade and rugged." While working in Chapel Hill, Freeman met his future wife, a Vermont native and self-funded master's student at the University of North Carolina. In a few years, the couple moved back up to Vermont, first settling in the town of Plainfield, and then, only a year later, in Middlebury.

"That's how it all started," Freeman said.

It was around this time in the mid-1970's that Freeman decided he wanted to make shoes for a living. By chance, he was connected with a Jamaican boot maker living in New Orleans through a serendipitous conversation with a university student visiting the college town one summer. After sending a letter down to Louisiana, he took a risk and rode a Greyhound bus 1,700 miles to New Orleans, in hopes of an apprenticeship.

"When you're 28, you're brave like that. I found the guy in his repair shop and there were all these beautiful shoes laying around. I told him, 'I want to learn how to make shoes,' and he said, 'Son, I want you to go away. Don't waste my time.' I hung around New Orleans for three weeks, and I finally convinced him I was serious. He said he would take me on as an apprentice and teach me everything he knew."

During his subsequent training, Freeman's wife taught in the city. After years of work, they moved back to Middlebury in 1986, where Freeman started "Leather Brothers." Within the year it became "The Leatherworks," as the town now knows it.

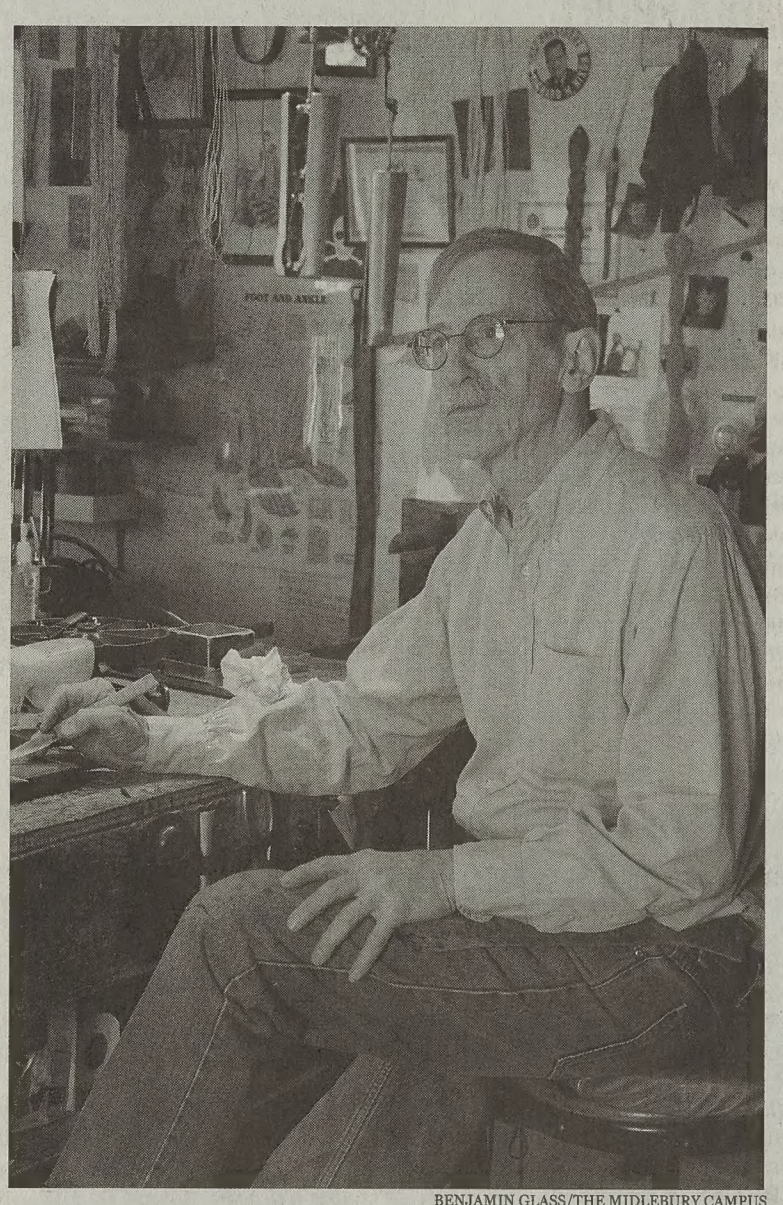
For more than three decades, Freeman has owned the shop on 2 Park Street, fashioning leather footwear for customers that have special orthotic requirements, and for those who just appreciate a boot made to last a lifetime.

His operation is tight: with a retail space of a few hundred square feet, and a similarly sized workshop behind the counter, there's not a lot of extra room to dance. In the back of the store is a pantry, where Freeman keeps his fine leather rolled and stored. Wooden and plastic casts, reminiscent of mummified feet, fill every crack and crevice of shelf space, and Freeman has hundreds more hidden away in storage. A collection of sewing machines near the counter, a leather splitter, an anvil dangling near the edge of an old wooden side table and a leather sander covered with old Phillies stickers, make meandering through the shop feel like venturing through a maze.

"A real shoemaker could make a pair (of shoes) with a knife and fork," he joked, admitting to the amount of modern equipment in the shop.

Beyond the charming aesthetics of Freeman's studio machinery and the shiny boots that almost display themselves on the racks, the business of shoemaking is a combination of oddity, rarity and novelty. In an industry with very low supply, and subsequent low demand, to the untrained eye, Freeman's work may seem financially unsuccessful and doomed for closure, like many adjacent small businesses in Middlebury.

"In the summer, I might have ten or fifteen customers come in to the store (daily)," Freeman said, implying each visitor might take a look at the collection of belts and other miscellaneous leather goods he retails in-house. "Any sale in here is usually $50 or $60, which is usually enough to pay rent for that day." The winter months see a huge decline, and Freeman admits some days he has no retail customers open his door. However, the stagnancy of Middlebury's retail industry doesn't bother him for a few reasons.



BENJAMIN GLASS/THE MIDLEBURY CAMPUS
Since 1986, Dan Freeman has dedicated most of his working life to making custom leather shoes and boots at Leatherworks in Middlebury.

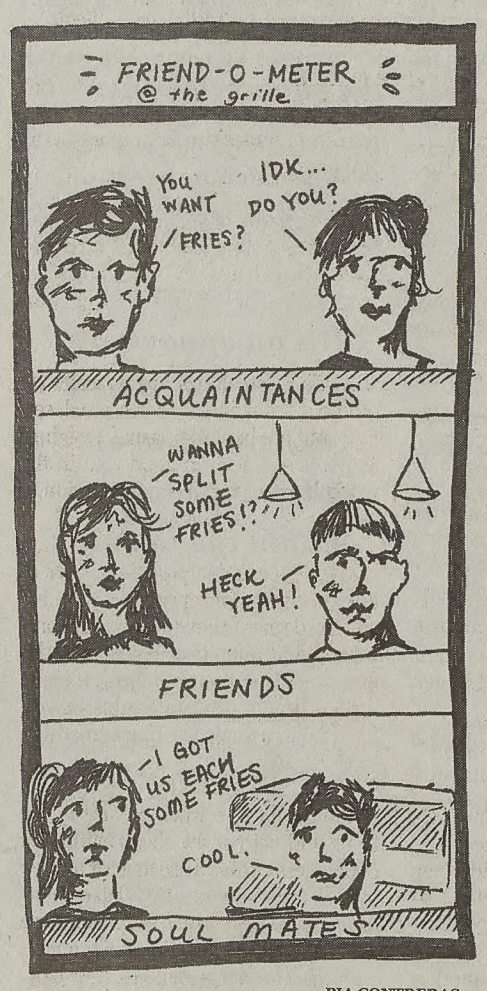
"When I go visit my family in Philly, every time I go into a store, the clerks are short-tempered, and the drivers are too," he said. "They are getting abused all day. If you are constantly fighting other drivers and rude people yelling at you, it's going to affect your personality. When you don't interact with more people and they are friendlier, it's just easier and it makes you nicer. And you're nicer to other people."

But don't be fooled by the silence of Freeman's shop, because behind this façade of an empty Vermont storefront lies the truth that Freeman can't keep up with the custom orders put on his business.

"I make shoes all day," he said. There's a list of names hidden on the far side of one of the shop's supporting beams that Freeman calls his "A list": the customers who have purchased at least two pairs from him. Consider his "B list," then, a group double the length that have bought a single pair from him.

Leatherworks has an established reputation, and, combined with the slow, time-consuming process of making shoes, Freeman has built a — somewhat — stable life for himself that requires him to show up to work every day and get his leather apron a little dirtier.

"It really is not a great business plan," he admitted. "You need a lot of knowledge, and even with the high prices, you cannot really make much of a profit. However, I'm not complaining. When (customers) put on their shoes, smile, and get out their checkbook, that's what I work for. I need that check too, but what I work for is making shoes that people like to wear, and wear them all the time."



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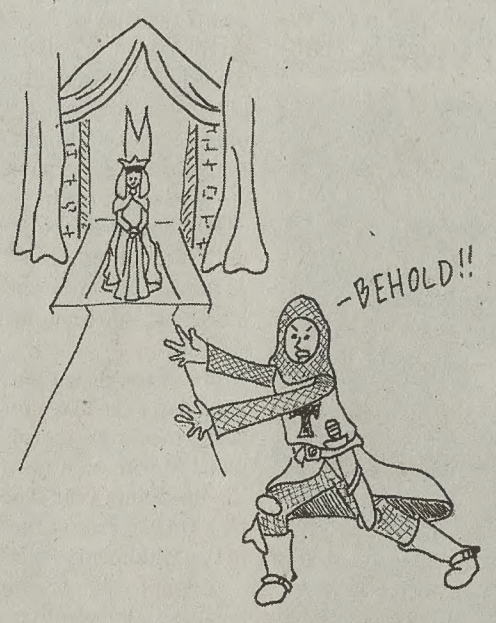
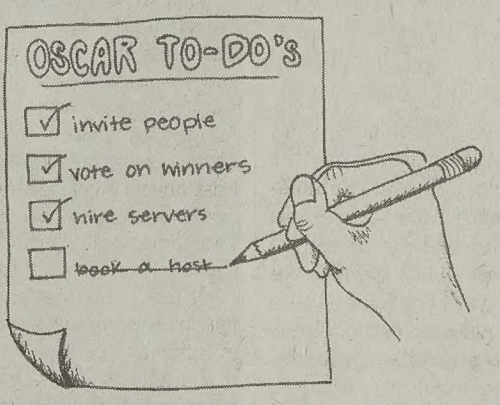
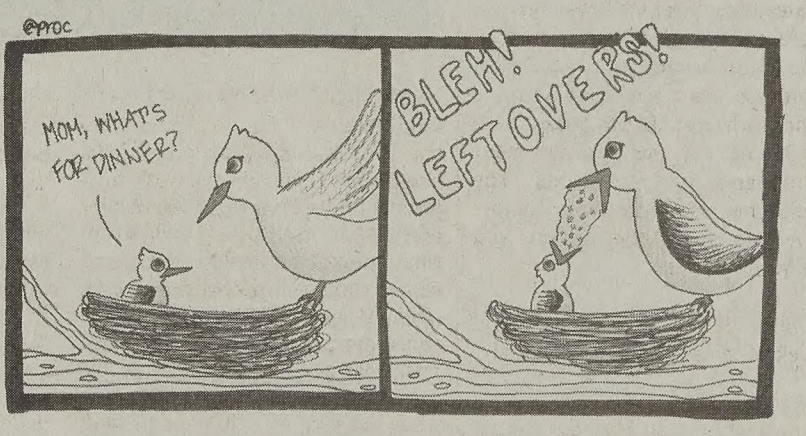


JENNY MOSS

KAITLYND COLLINS



SARAH FAGAN



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SGA UPDATE: We Want Your Feedback

By NIA ROBINSON

Happy third week of the semester!

A few updates of SGA:

1. Feedback Form – If you have any questions, comments, concerns, ideas, etc. please use the new go/heysga form. Submissions are anonymous (unless you would like to leave your name) and checked every Sunday at SGA meetings. If you have a more pressing or personal issue, please reach out to a member individually.

2. How We Will Live Together – If you are interested in the updates about the external review, please visit go/livetogether. Also, the steering committee is interested in your recommendations and feedback! On the page, there is a link for you to leave your comments and questions. The deadline for feedback is tomorrow (March 1st) so make sure you submit by then!

That's all for this week. Good luck as the semester continues!

Nia Robinson is a member of the Class of 2019 and the SGA President.

Proposed Commons Changes Are a Good Start

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

We would like to commend the How We Will Live Together Steering Committee for revising the college's Residential Life system based on community-wide feedback about the current system's shortcomings. Now, the system offers certain students more positive experiences than others, and we appreciate the Committee's attempt to equalize quality of life across all Commons. But, we would also like to recommend changes that we believe should be part of the final proposal.

The Steering Committee outlined its proposed changes to the Residential Life system at a forum in Wilson Hall last Tuesday alongside the Student Government Association and Community Council. Committee members conducted an extensive review of the college's current Residential Life system and identified key structural weaknesses.

"What we now have is one of the most expensive residential systems among all of our peer institutions, with some of the poorest outcomes, particularly around student satisfaction," said Robert Moeller, assistant professor of Psychology and co-chair of the steering committee.

The Committee's new draft intends to address issues within the current residential system that have traditionally hampered students' experiences. To identify these limitations, the Committee sent out surveys to the student body and collected input across Commons.

Many low-income students, minority students and Febs responded to these surveys expressing that they felt isolated within the current Residential Life system. These sentiments of isolation coupled with the college's current overcrowding make the process of constructing a new residential system.

Some of the proposed solutions include reclaiming lounge areas currently being used as student rooms or office spaces, eliminating restrictions on sophomore housing, improving the integration of Feb students and increasing support for students staying on campus during breaks. We think these are all good ideas that could lay a solid foundation for a more inclusive and balanced residential experience.

To build upon these proposals, we encourage the Steering Committee to prioritize grouping new Febs together in dorms, and with other first-year students. Students build strong relationships with their neighbors and hallmates, and we think deliberately integrating Febs with other first-years will help them adjust to college life. It could also be helpful to hire a residential staff member who works directly with Febs. Many of us have good relationships with our deans and Commons coordinators because we were able to connect with them during the first trying months of college; we want Febs to have this chance too.

We are wary of grouping all first-year housing together into a "quad," as the draft recommendations currently suggest. While we agree that deans and Residential Life teams should be placed within first-year housing, we are unsure whether first-year housing and Residential Life teams should be in one geographical area. This setup could limit interclass interaction and could create an isolating environment — especially for Febs, if the college continues to place them in upperclassman housing.

We would also like to see the dining halls open more regularly during breaks. Perhaps the college could create structured programming for students who stay on campus over breaks. It can be lonely to spend Thanksgiving or Winter Break on campus, and the college should do all it can to make it a social and fun experience.

We hope equalizing the number of students each dean oversees will make deans even more accessible to students, especially to first-years. Members of our board have expressed varying relationships with their deans, typically dependent upon what Commons they entered in their first year. As such, we agree with the Committee's initiative to improve student-dean relationships across the board.

We also recognize that cozy physical spaces for students to interact with deans encourage students to reach out and ask for help when they need it. Moving Commons or deans' offices to an uninviting student center could make students less willing to get to know their Residential Life teams, which means the new center needs to be as warm and accessible as possible. Ideally, these offices would remain in first-year dorms to ensure first-years get support when they need it.

If the college does hire new deans to address first-year support, we hope they consider Scott Barnicle, dean of Atwater Commons, as an example. Barnicle not only provides the support students need regarding class scheduling or on-campus issues, but also remains highly invested in students' personal well-being. We think it is no coincidence that Barnicle has a background in counseling, which equips him to support students more holistically.

We remain wary of reducing the overall number of deans as this may place more responsibility on FYCs, RAs and CAs. FYCs already have a great deal of responsibility: beyond being the "go-to" people for first-years, they are responsible for coordinating events, building hall community and staying "on call" in case of emergencies, and yet they are not paid enough. We would love for Residential Life members, especially FYCs, to receive better compensation for their work.

Our board recognizes that this is a draft of recommendations. It is obvious the Committee has taken student input seriously and we are grateful to be involved in the construction of the new Residential Life plan.

We hope the Committee follows through with the commitments outlined within its proposal. Decades ago, when the college first proposed the Commons system, many of the objectives outlined within its proposal never came to fruition. The residential system became entrapped within a self-perpetuating cycle where low-quality programming decreased students' enthusiasm about their Commons, which then further lowered the quality of housing initiatives. If the college genuinely wants to improve life on campus, it needs to fully implement the commitments outlined within this proposal.

In the meantime, we encourage students to continue voicing their suggestions and concerns. The draft is accessible at go/livetogether and students can comment on the draft online until March 1.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

McCullough Student Center could be renovated or replaced as a result of recommendations from the How We Will Live Together Steering Committee.

We Need Your Help to Report on College Mental Health Services

By WILL DIGRAVIO
Editor in Chief

Let's be honest: sometimes this paper doesn't do a good job.

In the nearly four years I have been a member of The Campus, I have interacted with hundreds of members of our community. During the course of reporting, conversations often drift to unrelated topics. Sometimes, those nuggets of information become stories. Other times, they remain nuggets.

Time and time again, I, and members of our staff, have heard stories about the lack of adequate mental health services on campus. This paper has failed to seriously report on this issue in a meaningful way. For instance, we received this anonymous message via our website:

"I really, really think you guys should do a story about the lack of counselors at Parton. It is so difficult to get an appointment. Even though I have a counselor, it's sometimes impossible to get an appointment with them; counselors with such a heavy load can't guarantee continuity of care for all of their patients. There are no counselors of color either. ... Parton needs to hire more counselors to accommodate demand for counseling services. I know lots of people (my counselor included) who feel strongly that Parton needs more counselors. Especially a non- white counselor."

Since the new year, reporting on this issue has been our top priority. We still need your help. We want to hear your stories, experiences, concerns and ideas for the future. This is a tremendous ask, and one we do not take lightly. Of course, we understand why people may be hesitant to share their experiences regarding this particular topic. That being said, there are several ways you can engage with us that offer different levels of anonymity. If you would like to share your story with us, here is how you can do it:

Talk to Us On Background
This means we can tell your story in full, but we will not attribute it to you. For example, if you told us about your experiences, we would write something like: "said a person who wished to remain anonymous due to the personal nature of the story." Though I and at least one other editor must know who you are, we will not share your identity with anyone else.

Talk to Us On the Record
We can tell your story in full and attribute it to you.

Talk to Us Off the Record
You tell us your story, but we will not publish it unless you give us permission.

Submit A Tip
When submitting a tip, you can decide whether to include your name and contact information. However, without a name or contact information, we won't be able to follow-up and ask questions. If you submit a tip and include your name and contact information, we will not publish anything without consulting you first.

How to Get in Touch
Fill out the form at go.middlebury.edu/campus-tips. Or email me at wdigravio@middlebury.edu. Or, if you feel so inclined, reach us the old-fashioned way via campus mail: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30.

Note: A version of this article ran in the Dec. 6 issue of The Campus. We are still gathering information for a future story.

Music Majors Reject the 'MAC'

We, the music majors of Middlebury College write to push back against the idea that the CFA name change is a positive and exciting development. Liza Sacheli has argued unconvincingly (see the article "CFA Becomes the MAC, and Students Ask Why") that the new acronym provides "much-needed clarity about the building's identity and its programs, too." As far as we are concerned, the identity of the Arts Center and its inhabitants is one that prizes creativity and diversity, that encourages students to freely create and exercise their imaginations. We will continue to refer to our beloved building with the myriad titles that reflect the true goals of the arts at Middlebury. More importantly, we protest vehemently against the lack of student consultation and strongly encourage the leadership of the Mahaney Center to reverse this preposterous and autocratic decision.

Gareth Cordery '20
Miko Dai '20
Jack DeBouter '20
Emily Han '20
Dylan Healy '21
Jack Herscowitz '20
Sam Houlihan '19.5
Wheeler Jarvis '21
Eleanor Mayerfeld '19.5
Nathan Ng '19
Aidan O'Brien '20
Ronnie Romano '20
Fiona Sullivan '19
Hannah Smart '19
Angad Virk '20
Ashley Wang '21
Spencer Watson '19.5

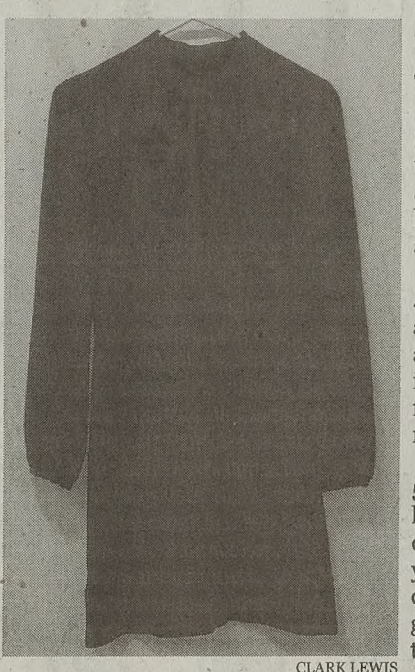
The signed group includes every declared major in the Department of Music at Middlebury College.

The Lookbook: Business Casual

By CLARK LEWIS

This week I am featuring a new dress that I recently bought from Zara. The dress is bright red, long-sleeved and features covered buttons and a pussycat bow neckline. Working in the Admissions Office as a Senior Fellow, I have to wear business casual attire at least once a week. Given that professional clothing can be very expensive, I was super excited to find this dress on clearance for less than twenty dollars. I felt that it was the perfect dress to match my preppy style while also looking office appropriate.

I find that many companies are adopting inclusivity and wellness practices into their work environments. One main component of this is allowing employees to dress in a way that allows for self-expression and comfort. "Business casual attire" is supposed to be the happy medium between business professional and casual clothing. Clothes that are informal enough for you to feel at ease, but professional enough not to disrupt the work environment. Despite my past internships and career bootcamps, I still sometimes struggle to discern which articles of clothing I should wear to the office. What clothes are suitable and which are pushing the limits of professionalism? I find that many people my age and across industries, struggle when deciding what to wear to work in the mornings. This is why I wanted dedicate a column to unpacking and explaining what it means to adopt a business casual attire.



CLARK LEWIS

So, here are some tips for how to navigate the business casual work space:

1. Skirts and dresses above the knee are typically not acceptable, but capri cut slacks and khakis are fine. Never jeans.

2. Collars on shirts are nice but are not required. Feel free to wear a stylish blouse or shirt of your choosing--just stay away from anything too revealing. Polos and short sleeves are acceptable. Ties are optional.

3. For shoes, please stick to closed-toed dress shoes. Peep-toe sandals and mules are typically acceptable, but flip flops, slides and sneakers are a no-no.

4. Wrinkles are never acceptable, so allocate time to ironing your outfit in advance. Also, "distressed" anything is definitely unacceptable. Stay away from ripped, bleached or cut up garments.

5. Business professional attire typically only includes dark and neutral colors. So, business casual attire means you have room to experiment with colors and patterns. Be careful not to go overboard–but this gives you room to experiment.

6. When it comes to jewelry, have fun, but in moderation. A nice necklace, watch, lapel pin or belt can add a pop of style as long as they aren't too distracting.

7. Makeup is also acceptable in moderation. Feel free to sport a bold red lip, but don't come to the office looking ready for the Grammys.

8. I believe that everyone should at least own a blazer or suit jacket for initial interviews but it is not needed for the office. A nice cardigan or vest is all you need.

9. In the name of sustainability, I recommend shopping at thrift stores to find clothes. Especially when you're on an intern salary or just starting your career.

10. Finally, stockings are typically required for business professional settings but not business casual. Leggings as pants are never a good idea in the workplace but may be a nice option to wear under your work dress.

While these tips provide an idea of how to dress appropriately, these aren't fixed rules. Above all else, I recommend being a tad over-dressed for the first day. This not only helps you make a good first impression but saves you from unknowingly wearing something too informal.

Also, because every company is different, no one work culture is the same and neither are their definitions of business casual. Take at least a week to feel out the company. Take mental notes of what other employees are wearing and maybe even have a chat with the Human Resources representative to learn official company policy on clothing. This way you can find the happy medium between professionalism and personal style.

Clark Lewis is a member of the Class of 2019.

Sex Panther: Give Lube Some Love

Editor's Note: Throughout the semester you'll be reading articles from Middlebury students of different identities and experiences on all things sex and relationships.

Let's talk about lube. No, really. We need to have a heart-to-heart about why some of y'all don't seem to understand that sticking anything in anyone is gonna require some liquid love. If you've got a vagina, sometimes your yoni can take care of that need for you, but sometimes it doesn't. And if you've got a butthole (for your sake I hope you do because if you don't you might want to get that checked out) and you wanna stick stuff up your (or someone else's) butt, you're gonna need to add lube.

For my fellow queers, this probably isn't news. Lubricant love is strong in queer circles. We have long been indebted to the virtues of lubricant in sexual situations. Personally, I carry a mini-packet in my condom case (you do carry your condoms in a case so that they aren't compromised by friction or sharp objects, right? Right?!?!) to whip out should the need arise with my honey. Believe me, we queers know lube.

But most straight folx? Not so much. Painfully not so much. Straight boys, listen up: if your partner(s) can't get wet on their own when you're going at it, even though they are enthusiastically consenting to what you're doing and you're both into sticking stuff into each other, chances are you need lube. Otherwise, you're going to end up with chafing at the very least and a ruined sexual relationship at worst.

It's important to combat the notion that to be good at having sex you shouldn't need any 'outside help'. The belief that folks with vaginas need to be able to get wet with a smoldering glance from you is laughable. Foreplay is important, y'all!!!!!! It is perfectly normal, natural and biological that every vagina is different. Some may literally drip when they're turned on, and some may not produce any lubrication at all, even if they're hornier than a bunny in May. So stop it with that wet = aroused nonsense. I am here to tell you that that assertion is certifiably false, sex kittens. That is just your fragile masculinity talking, and it ain't sexy.

To be fair, you may not have ever considered not listening to that little voice of toxic masculinity, but now would be a great time to start considering it. Your partner and their orifices will thank you.

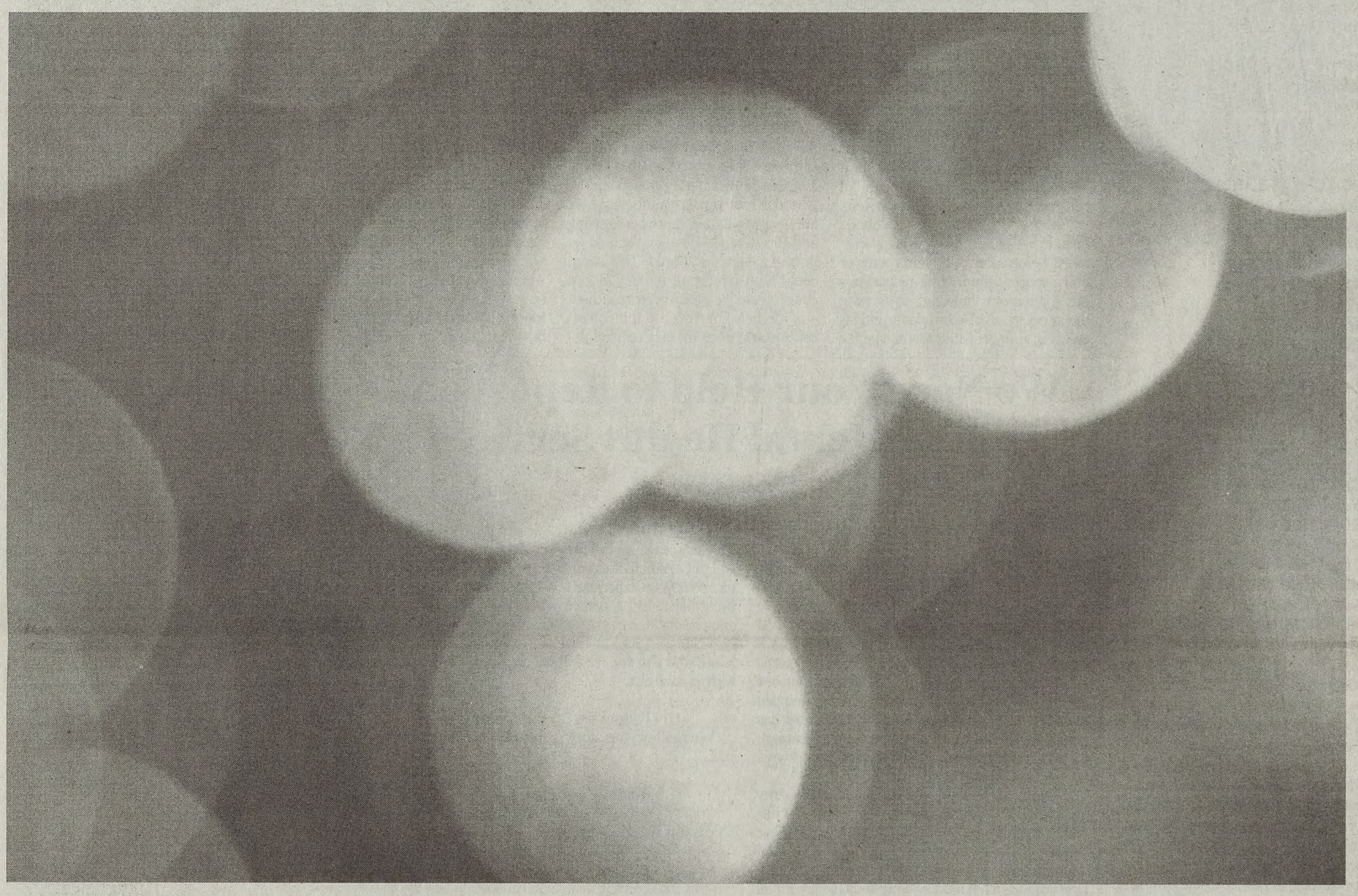
"Wahhhhh but if I take time to get out lube, I have to stop mid-coitus. It kills the mood! :(((("

Well, buddy, if stopping to make sure your partner is having the best experience possible 'ruins the mood', stopping isn't the problem. And while you're stopped, maybe ask your partner(s) what would feel good, or check in about consent or engage in some dirty talk. And if you and your sweetie enjoy incorporating toys in the bedroom (or wherever, no shame), lube can be a lifesaver! Just be careful to use a lube that is safe for your specific situation.

Remember, kids SILICONE LUBE MELTS SILICONE TOYS. And oil based lube erodes condoms, so keep coconut oil in the kitchen if you're using a latex condom. Water-based is generally safe for all bodies and surfaces, but the only downside is that it tends to dry out more quickly, so you may need to take a couple of extra moments to re-apply and make sure everything is going smoothly down there.

Here's the thing: foreplay is a fun, sensual, wonderful part of sex and incorporating lube into foreplay can ramp up the mood in a very hot way. So grab some packets from Parton, or invest in some lube for your (sexually) active lifestyle and get gliding!

If you have a topic you'd like to see written about or you'd like to write your own Sex Panther column, visit go/sexpanther to get in touch with us.



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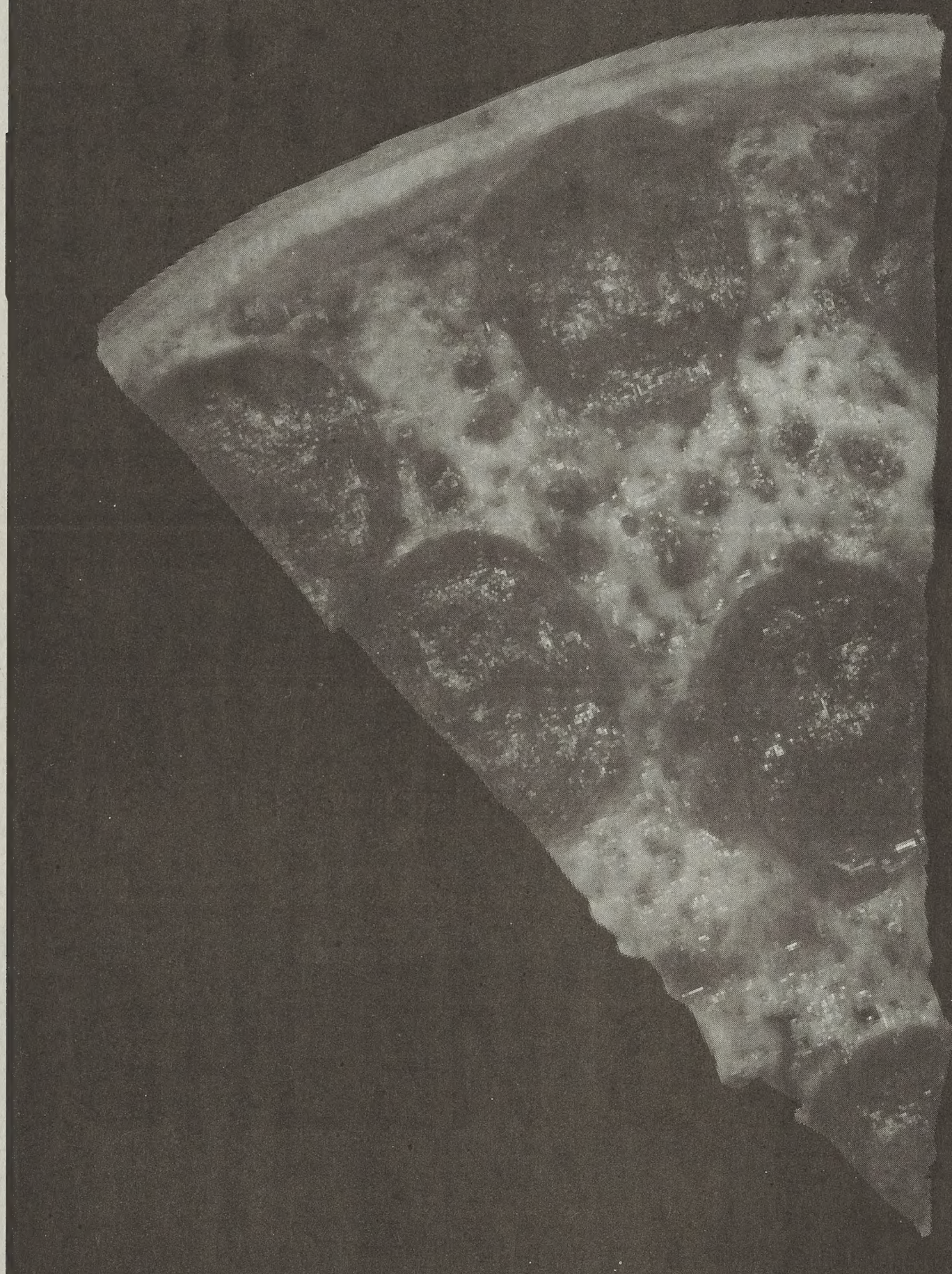

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Middlebury Alumni Win Big at Oscars

Continued from Page 1

After "Spider-Verse" landed well with audiences, it was only a matter of time before Rothman confronted the possibility of winning an Academy Award.

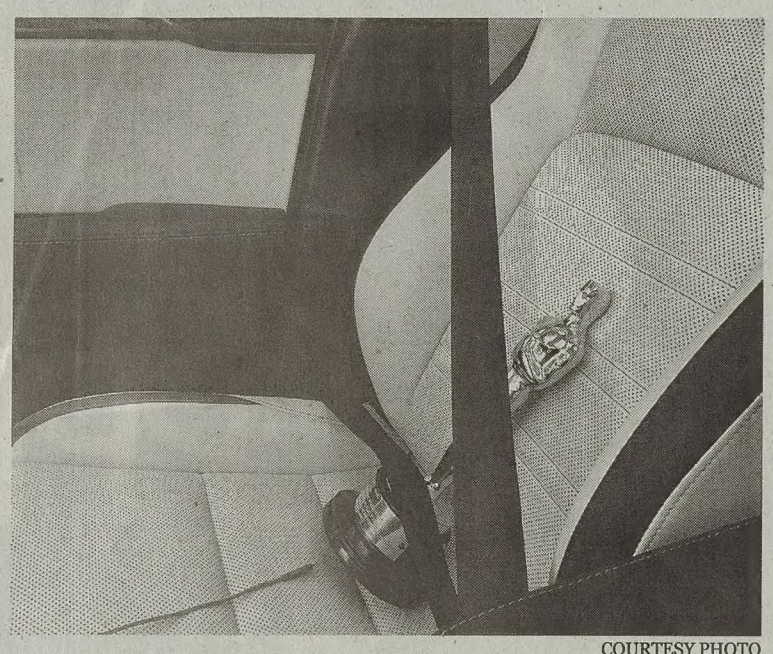
"At a certain point we realized we had a shot at winning an Oscar. It was a shock, but it was also plainly happening in front of us," he said.

Rothman credits the foundations of his career in TV and film to his time in the Otter Nonsense Players improv group at Middlebury. The college community was incredibly supportive of the Otters, treating performers to crowded audiences at every performance, and the environment allowed the group and Rothman, to develop new forms of comedy that merged with storytelling — a space that he "likes to play in as a writer and filmmaker today."

Rothman also noted that the culture at Middlebury was ideal for growing as a performer and writer.

"People appreciated what I was doing and that pushed me to try new things," he said. "Ideas I had at Middlebury are concepts that I've continued to develop for years, and decades."

Otters have gone on to see great success in Hollywood — Jason Mantzoukas '95, with whom Rothman led the improv group 25 years ago, is a successful comedic actor, as is Jessica St. Clair '98, who was also a part of Otter Nonsense.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oscar rides safely home with Rothman after Sunday's awards show.

"There must be something going on in the fruit punch in Proctor," he said, adding that he sees his fellow Otter alumni all the time.

Rothman was also a columnist and editor with The Campus, and wrote several Saturday Night Live jokes used on air during Weekend Update, as well as his application for The Late Show with David Letterman, from the Hepburn basement offices of this newspaper. He was later hired for the position at the show.

Brian Currie '83 received his Oscars for the acclaimed film "Green Book." Currie was not available for comment by press time.

Brian Hayes Currie '83, left, accepts his Academy Award for "Green Book."

The film tells the story of a black pianist, his white driver, and a friendship they developed on a tour through the South in 1962. Despite its success, the film has faced criticism from those who believe it is an example of the troubling "white savior" trope. It also faced backlash after the surviving family of Donald Shirley, the man whose life provided the basis for the film's protagonist played by Mahershala Ali, accused the filmmakers of historical inaccuracy and exaggerating the friendship between the two men.

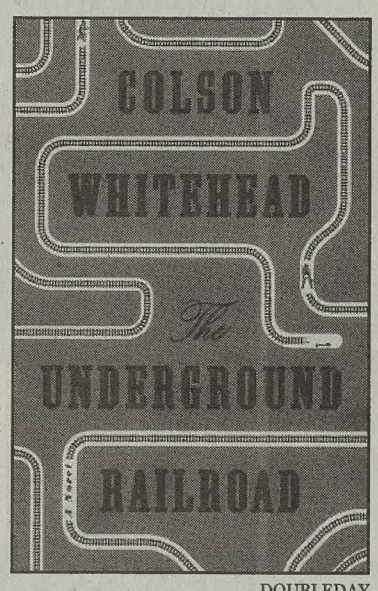
Mittell compared these two Middlebury-connected films, and addressed the controversies surrounding "Green Book."

"The character of Miles Morales (in "Spider-Verse") created a sophisticated mixed-race protagonist in ways that many have said is more grounded and impactful than almost all live-action films," he said. "Certainly it's notable that an animated film seemed to represent a more nuanced and realistic relationship between black and white characters than the official Best Picture did."

Editor's note: Jason Mittell is The Campus' academic advisor. Aside from providing the above quote, he had no role in this article.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist



DOUBLEDAY

In terms of plot, Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "The Underground Railroad," is much of what you might expect: it's a fictionalized story of two people escaping slavery in the pre-Civil War era South. The language is rich. The characters are full. The trajectory is treacherous. Check. Check. Check. Perhaps what is special about this work is the magnification the author carries out in highlighting plantation cultures and the interstate economics of recapturing escaped slaves and returning them to their legal "owners."

Whitehead makes a concerted effort to "peel back the curtain" on early Georgian systems of agriculture that were dependent on the forced labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants. Viewed primarily as property, these people encountered few, if any, protections from the law, from their "masters" and/or from each other. The brutality they lived through was not limited to the fields and was not meted out solely by white hands. That is, enslaved people, too, were perpetrators of inhumane acts, too, within a society that normalized such behavior.

For me, the tale is Cora's. Like anyone else, she desires self-determination, tenderness and the promise an open horizon offers. The lore surrounding Cora's mother leads all within Cora's community to believe that Cora's mother, Mabel, successfully made it North to free territory. Her mother's mysterious disappearance leads others to believe that Cora has inherited something rich, unique and worthy of reverence. Perhaps that thing is the belief that escape is possible. Cora and her companion, Caesar, then make their way North, and the novel is the tale of all they encounter en route: literacy, courting, abolitionists, bounty hunters, hope, fear, promise and more. Without wanting to give too much away, for me, the tragic flaw for Cora and Caesar is that they run until they feel safe; they do not run until they are actually free. Their complacency ushers in a new set of dangers and evils.

I listened to this work as an audiobook at go/overdrive/. And I recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical fiction. For me, however, I have to wonder how/why the United States has such a sick love affair with the re-telling of violence enacted on black bodies. Why are these narratives so popular, seductive and persistent here? Is this our national fetish? The book is certainly well-crafted, don't get me wrong. But why is it that the works featuring black people and black narratives that draw the most attention are about blood, victims and suffering? Why is it that the more harrowing the tale is, the more praise and critical acclaim it receives?

Cases in point? 2016's "Moonlight," which featured homophobic violence and social ostracization; 2016's "Fences," which featured broken dreams and toxic masculinity; 2009's "Precious," which featured incest, rape and mental and verbal abuse; 2001's "Monster's Ball," which featured explicit racism, misogynoir and the death of a child. "Django Unchained," "12 Years A Slave," et cetera.

Do "our" only chances for widespread critical acclaim within screenplays lie incestuously beside our despair? My thought is not an original one, no. And sure, there's an exception to the rule, sure: 2018's "Black Panther," for example. But the questions remains: Can we exist if we are not overcoming, defying expectations and surviving abuse?

The book is "good," yes. But what tropes must it perpetuate in order to be "good"? For more works that are thematically similar, check out the audiobook "The War Before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggles for America's Soul" at go/overdrive/, "The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass," "Incidents in the Life of A Slave Girl," "What the Slaves Ate" or "Django Unchained."

Spencer is the college's Literatures & Cultures Librarian. Learn more at go/katrina.

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Common Ground: Justice, Diversity and Inclusivity in the Environment
This symposium aims to stress the need for more inclusive approaches to environmental activism, and to address the pervasive forms of marginalization in conversations related to the environment.
Friday 3/1 and Saturday 3/2, check go/ej/ for times and locations.

Ragamala Dance Company: Sacred Earth
Sacred Earth is Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy's singular vision of the beautiful, fragile relationship between nature and man. Ragamala's dancers perform with live music to create a sacred space honoring the divinity in the natural world and the sustenance we derive from it. $22/16/10/6
Thursday 2/28 & Friday 3/1 - 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Dance Theater

Música Hispánica: Conductor and pianist Francisco Alvarez-Díaz
A celebration of the Spanish heritage in music, this evening features Spanish Language School choir conductor Francisco "Paco" Alvarez-Diaz and the Middlebury College Choir performing Spanish art songs, folk songs from Latin America, a new work by Middlebury senior Fiona Sullivan '19 and more. Free
Friday 3/1 - 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall

Second Annual Spencer Prize Contestants Talk Privilege, Identity

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

What do Hinduism, accents, deafness, antibiotics, poverty and identity have in common? They were all topics addressed by the six finalists for the first-year Spencer Prize for Oratory who competed for the Grand Prize last Tuesday, Feb. 19 in the Robison Concert Hall at the Mahaney Arts Center.

Roni Lezama, Sophie Hochman, Regina Fontanelli, Jack Rudnick, Justin Celebi and Ellie Thomson, all members of the Class of 2022. They were tasked with connecting a concept they learned in a Middlebury class to something they cared about. Lezama secured the trophy for his speech about his father, who emigrated from Mexico, the English language and power.

The Spencer Prize process began in the fall, when faculty members nominated students they felt had exceptional public speaking skills to be a part of the Oratory Now-sponsored event. Students competed at the Commons level first, and the five champions — as well as one "wild card" winner — competed for the Grand Prize last Tuesday. Lezama was the wild card champion, Hochman represented Wonnacott, Fontanelli from Brainerd, Rudnick from Cook, Celebi from Ross and Thomson from Atwater.

The topics covered a diverse array of subjects, all united by the passion the speakers had for their particular issues.

"The sheer variety of people nominated, and of topics covered, meant that we had a cool dynamic going; there was a real sense of mutual respect among us," said Hochman, who spoke about the connection between the principles of Hinduism and reform of the prison system.

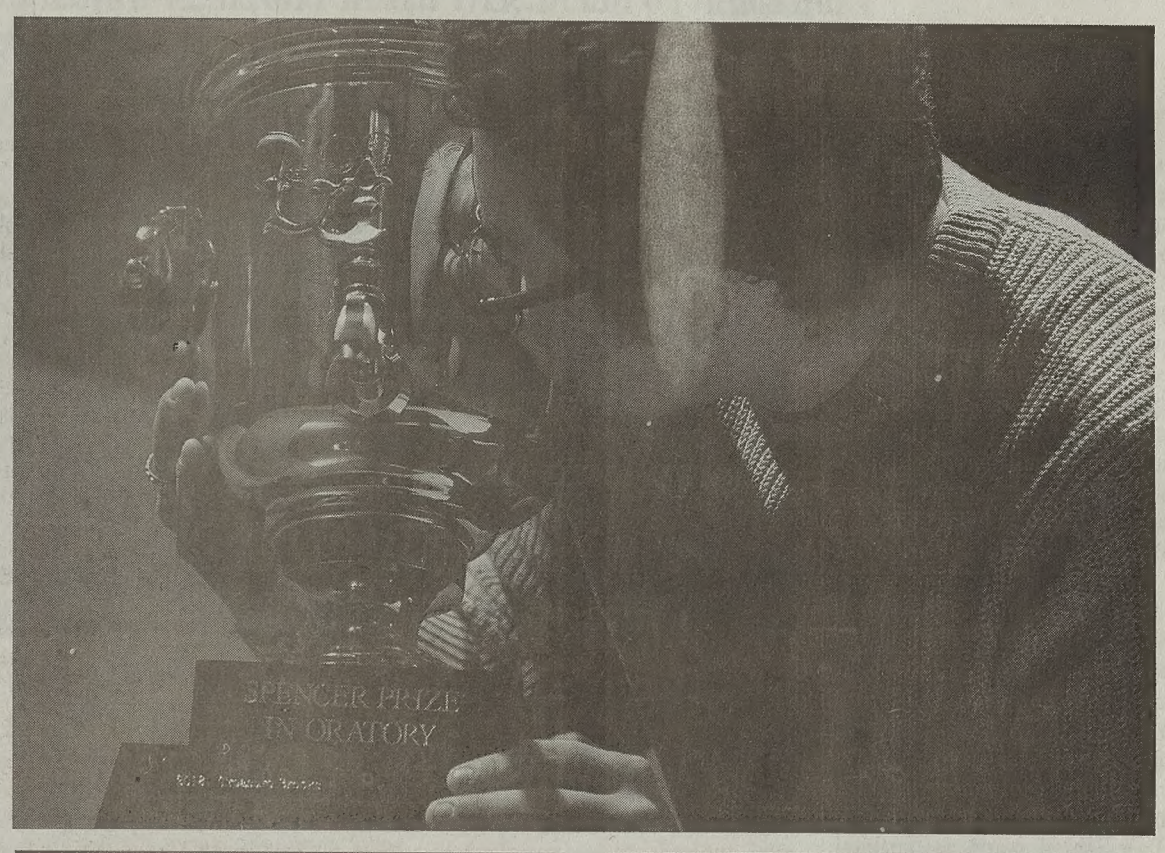
Other speeches included Thomson's about adoption and identity, Fontanelli's discussion of privilege and poverty in bootstrap America, Rudnick's speech about antibiotics and over-prescription, and Celebi's about deafness and the border between disabled and able-bodied people.

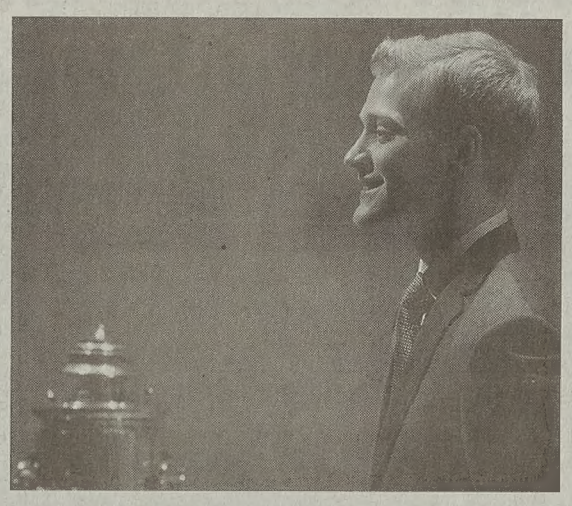
"The best part for me was the process of writing that first speech, of connecting something I learned in class to something I care about, and realizing that I actually had ideas I wanted to express," Hochman said.

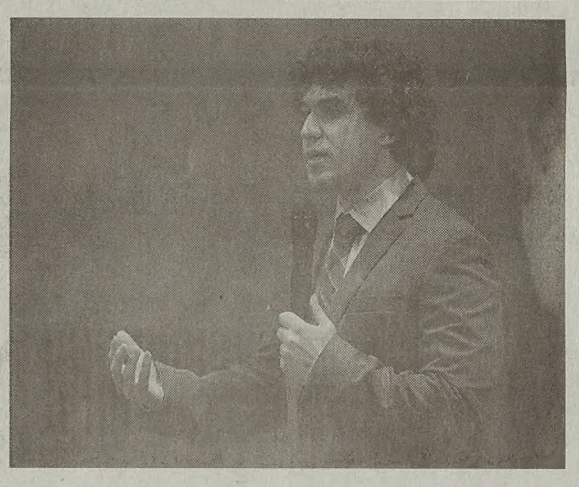
Lezama dedicated his speech to his father and focused on languages, accents, perception and power in the United States. It was inspired by conversations in his first-year seminar, Language and Social Justice.

With the content of his speech in mind, it's not surprising that Lezama was appreciative of the freedom afforded to the speakers throughout the process.

"There wasn't a point when they wanted to change our speaking styles or points," he said. "They heavily believed in us being our authentic selves, and I personally really appreciated that."







GIOIA KUSS/COURTESY PHOTO

Top: Roni Lezama '22 accepts the Spencer Prize trophy.
Gallery, clockwise from top left: finalists Regina Fontanelli, Ellie Thomson, Sophie Hochman, Justin Celebi and Jack Rudnick, all '22.

Yamiche Alcindor Recounts a Career of Asking Tough Questions

By HANNAH BENSEN
Staff Writer

Yamiche Alcindor found her purpose as a high school student when she heard a Kanye West song that referenced Emmett Till, a young black boy who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955.

"I had this burning desire to cover more of the Emmett Tills that are out there," Alcindor, the White House correspondent for PBS NewsHour, said in her Feb. 22 lecture in Mead Chapel. "I wanted to tell stories about people who needed to have their voices heard."

Alcindor's aspiration to be on the frontlines of stories like Till's and contribute to the nation's collective consciousness catalyzed her early career as a journalist. At her lecture, entitled "My Journey through Journalism," Alcindor spoke about her career path as well as the purposes and principles that have guided her throughout her "journey."

The talk was part of the Robert W. van de Velde '75 lecture series. According to Professor of History and Interim Dean for Faculty Development and Research Amy Morsman, who introduced Alcindor, the lecture series was established in 1981 to honor van de Velde, a Middlebury student who was active in WRMC radio during college and worked in broadcast radio after graduating.

"The van de Velde lecture is all about bringing people to campus who can address questions of public policy and the press," Morsman told The Campus. "I wanted to bring somebody who was young, and dynamic, and I knew it would be fascinating to get somebody who could talk about their work in the White House every day."

Alcindor often reports stories about civil rights injustices and police violence. As a student at Georgetown University, Alcindor studied English, government and African American studies. She frequently assured her parents, who are Haitian-American immigrants, that she would be going to law school so that they "wouldn't ask too many questions." Meanwhile, Alcindor prepared herself for a career in journalism.

When she started out as an intern, she knew she had to pay her dues, covering stories about puppies, snow and dead whales.

"If you really want to do something, go after it with a fervor and a passion that makes people step back and say, 'This person really wants it this much, I can maybe respect their ideas,' " she said. "If you have an opportunity, you should grab onto those opportunities."

REID SMITH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Yamiche Alcindor spoke in Mead Chapel.

She was soon hired by USA Today to cover national breaking news, writing stories about the protests in Ferguson, Missouri and the Sandy Hook school shooting. Later, she was approached by The New York Times to cover the presidential campaigns of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

Now, Alcindor covers Trump's presidency for PBS NewsHour and is a contributor to NBC News and MSNBC.

As a journalist, Alcindor has a history of asking tough questions. Early in her career as a local reporter for Newsday, a publication based in New York, she wrote an article about a city council ordinance that allowed a councilman to get permanent life insurance, costing taxpayers millions of dollars. When covering Bernie Sanders, she questioned the lack of diversity on his campaign.

In November, while reporting for PBS, Alcindor asked the president at a press conference if he felt his rhetoric emboldened white nationalists. He responded by accusing her of asking a racist question.

> ***"Journalism must be the medium within which we dig and ask questions, and ask those questions in a more complex way. So in 2020, get ready to see me on stage asking all sorts of questions that make people uncomfortable."***
>
> - Yamiche Alcindor
> *White House Correspondent, PBS NewsHour*

As Alcindor grappled with this now-infamous interaction with the president, she found stability in the people who stood behind her, and in those she was asking the questions for.

"I focused on my purpose," she said describing how she grappled with the interaction. "I was steadied by the people who brought me to the United States so I could even ask that question," Alcindor said.

"That's going to be a moment that's replicated for everyone else in this room" she said. "You want to be ready for it, and you want to be strong. Because it will change you, and it will define you. I'm now known as 'the girl who Trump called racist.'"

Alcindor carries the stories of the people she has met with her. She told the crowd that politicians should be made to answer tough questions and held accountable for their beliefs. People who have platforms should understand what they believe in, and stick to that platform and purpose, Alcindor said.

"What I've learned is that you should really stand for something. Journalism must be the medium within which we dig and ask questions, and ask those questions in a more complex way. And we shouldn't be afraid to push candidates. So in 2020, get ready to see me on stage asking all sorts of questions that make people uncomfortable."

After the lecture, Middlebury student Ruhamah Weil '21 reflected on the importance of Alcindor's talk.

"Right now at Middlebury and in the country at large, we are dealing with questions like how do you stand behind what you believe in, and what do you believe in, and how do you talk to somebody else who believes in something different than you," Weil said. "Sometimes I think I want journalists to convince people that have other opinions than me that my opinion is right. But I think (Alcindor) reminded me that that's not always the point of journalism."

The Ultimate News

SALZMAN TO REPRESENT U.S. AT UNDER-24 WORLD ULTIMATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By MIYO McGINN
Contributing Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Dylan Salzman '19 looks for a pass at the Division III College National tournament in May 2018.

This J-term, Dylan Salzman '19 received an email containing the news he had been hoping for, and working towards, for years: he'd been selected to represent the United States at the Under-24 World Ultimate Championships in Heidelberg, Germany, this summer. Reflecting on his achievement, he said, "It honestly still doesn't feel real. But I guess it won't until the tournament actually starts — there's a big difference between seeing your name on a list and stepping onto the field in a jersey that says 'USA.'"

Ultimate Frisbee isn't an Olympic – or even varsity — sport, but there are still highly competitive national and international playing opportunities for elite ultimate players. The international governing body of ultimate, the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF), organizes international competitions at the youth, college-age, adult and masters level.

Salzman, a Political Science major and captain of the Middlebury Pranksters, the college's club ultimate team, will be one of 74 athletes representing the United States across three divisions — men's, women's and mixed-gender — at the event. Salzman, who will compete on the men's team, is one of only five athletes from Division III schools to be selected for any of the three teams.

The January roster announcement marked the end of a months-long selection process that began last summer. All U.S. national teams are selected and organized by USA Ultimate, the national governing body of the sport. In June and July, over 550 eligible athletes submitted written applications composed of questions about playing experience, on- and off-field skillset, sportsmanship and multiple letters of recommendation. From that application pool, two hundred athletes — one hundred men and one hundred women — received invitations to attend a tryout camp in November. Salzman's teammate and fellow Prankster, Kai DeLorenzo '20.5, also received an invitation to tryout camp.

Tryouts for the team occurred over two consecutive weekends, with invited athletes attending either the West or East coast tryout camps. Salzman traveled to California for the west coast tryout which, due to poor air conditions from forest fires, was moved five hours south at the last minute from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo. The additional travel time and logistical inconveniences only added another level of difficulty to an already grueling weekend; once players arrived at the new field location, they still had twelve hours of drills and scrimmages designed to test their athleticism, endurance and skill over two days. Since the national teams will only have one week of practice together before the tournament, the coaches were also looking for players who could learn and adapt quickly to playing with unfamiliar teammates. "It was a big mental toughness weekend," Salzman commented, looking back on the experience. "Staying focused and mentally dialed in was probably the hardest part of the whole thing."

For Salzman, earning a spot on this roster was the payoff of years of work. Additional workouts on top of fall practices and tournaments with the Prankersters during the months leading up to tryouts were just the start. After attending tryouts for the under-20 national team in 2016 — which was, at the time, the highest level of play he'd experienced – Salzman decided to commit the time and effort required to improving into an elite player. "That was when I knew it was something I wanted to do, and could do." After trying out for the previous U-24 team, in 2017, and gaining elite club experience during summers in Denver, Salzman set his sights on Heidelberg. "I knew the 2019 team was my team to make."

Once the school year ends, Salzman will get the chance to train for, and play in a world championship with, Team USA. But at present, Salzman is focused on ultimate a little closer to home: his upcoming season with the Middlebury men's club ultimate team. The Pranksters are expected to be nationally competitive this spring after returning all but three players from last year's national semifinal-qualifying team. Joining this strong core of returners are several talented recruits, including a first year who played with the junior national team in 2018. "We have a really good group of guys - right now, I'm just excited to keep growing with this team."

Editor's Note: Miyo McGinn '20 is a member of the Middlebury club women's ultimate team, the Lady Pranksters, and played on Team USA at the 2016 World Junior Ultimate Championships.

Middlebury Hosts NESCAC Swimming Championships, Men Place Eighth

By ANNA WOOD
Staff Writer

The 2019 men's swimming and diving NESCAC championship was held in the Middlebury Natatorium last weekend, February 21-24, where the Panthers placed eighth. Williams captured the first place spot for the 16th time in 17 years, collecting 1,822 points. Coming in as runner-up was Tufts with 1,775.5 points, followed by Amherst (1,506 points). Middlebury rounded out the top eight (589.5 points), behind Bowdoin, Bates, Colby and Connecticut College.

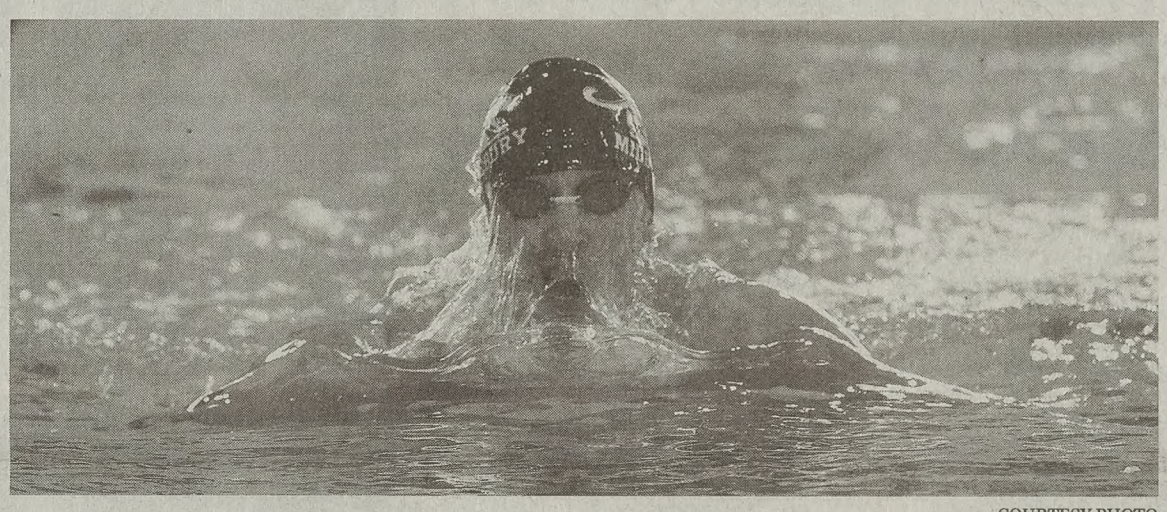
In the one-meter diving final, Mike Chirico '20 dove to an All-NESCAC performance for his third consecutive year, earning an NCAA "B" cut of 445.90 points to claim third place. For the past three years, Chirico has scored within the top three of the conference. His impressive performance is not a surprise, as he has consistently dominated both the one-meter and three-meter boards this season. In Sunday's three-meter event, Chirico took fourth, scoring 435.30 points.

Thursday and Friday's events led to several top 10 finishes. The 800 freestyle relay team of Morgan Matsuda '19, Jack Dowling '19, Alec Wilson '21 and Zach Einhorn '21 took ninth with a 7:01.03. Corey Jalbert '21, Will Pannos '20, Jake Gaughan '22 and Brendan Leech '19 claimed sixth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:24.01). Leech, Bryan Chang '22, Pannos and Jalbert then scored seventh in the 400 medley relay, swimming a 3:25.48. Two Panthers secured individual top scoring titles. Leech finished eighth in the 50 backstroke final (23.52) and Pannos finished ninth in the 50 free (21.10).

On Saturday, the 200 medley relay squad of Leech, Jacob Fleisher '20, Pannos and Jalbert opened the meet with a ninth place finish (1:34.15). Wilson and Leech swam to twelth in the 1,000 free (9.43.14) and 100 backstroke (51.41), respectively. In the 100 butterfly, Pannos finished second in the consolation final, earning 10th place overall with a 50.32.

Starting off Sunday strong, Alec Wilson swam the 1,650 freestyle final in 16:36.75, good for 19th place. Kevin Santoro '21 then touched the wall 15th in the 200 backstroke (1:53.61). In the 200 butterfly, Dowling took 13th with a time of 1:54.29. Closing out the weekend of competition, the 400 free relay squad of Pannos, Jalbert, Gaughan and Leech podiumed in eighth, stopping the clock in 3:06.36.

Next year, the women's team will host their half of the NESCAC event.

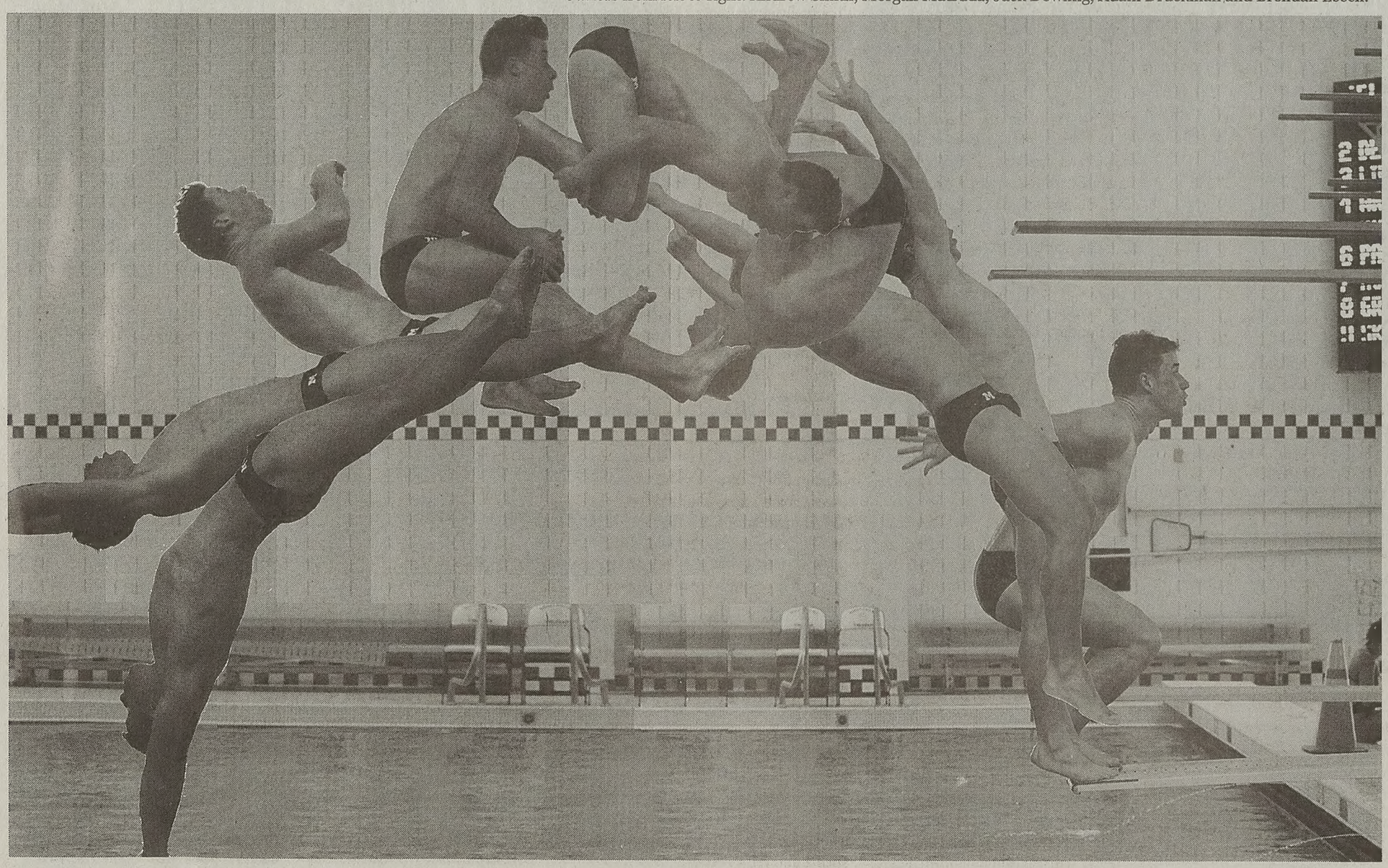


COURTESY PHOTO

Nick Nonnenmacher '21 finished 24th in the 400 inidividual medley, touching the wall in a time of 4:18.86.

COURTESY PHOTO

Seniors from left to right: Andrew Smith, Morgan Matsuda, Jack Dowling, Adam Druckman and Brendan Leech.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diver Mike Chirico '20 placed third on one-meter and fourth on three-meter this past weekend. Chirico earned both an NCAA "B" cut on one-meter and his third consecutive All-NESCAC title.

Indoor Track Teams Crack the Top Five in Boston

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

The track and field teams put forth a strong performance when they competed in the Division III New England Championships on Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23. The men got fifth place in a total field of twenty-three teams, while the women got fourth place in a total field of twenty-six teams.

"DIII New England's was a great start to the postseason for both the women's and men's teams," Rory Kelly '19 said, when asked about the outcome of the meet. "Some of the team is shifting their focus to the outdoor season with our first meet less than a month away. Others are looking to get in another fast race to either improve their times against some strong competition or to qualify for nationals. While individuals on the team have different goals during this period at the end of indoor and before outdoor, we still remain a very cohesive team and support each other."

The men's squad ended their meet with 64 points, with MIT finishing first, Tufts in second, WPI in third, and Southern Maine in fourth. Jimmy Martinez '19 came in fifth in the 200 meter dash with a time of 22.50. Jon Perlman '19 captured first place in the one mile run with a time of 4:10.82. In the 3000 meter run, Will Meyer '20 got third place with a time of 8:34.36. Harrison Knowlton '19 secured fourth in the 5000 meter run with a time of 15:13.40.

The Panthers also did well in their relays, since the "A" team got first in the 4X400 meter relay with a time of 3:21.94. This team was composed of Martinez, Arden Coleman '20, William Robertson '21, and Matthew Durst '21. In the 4000 meter DMR, the "A" team also captured first with a time of 10:10.99. This team was comprised of Meyer, Coleman, Perlman and Nathan Hill '20. Other crucial contributors were John Natalone '19 in the pole vault event, Nathaniel Klein '21 in the shot put event and Minhaj Rahman '19 in the weight throw event.

"This being a championship meet, there was very strong competition, so it was incredible to be able to win the mile and DMR," said Perlman. "Our team put a lot of emphasis on doing well at this meet and I think across the board we performed really well."

The women's squad finished with 57 points, and placed fourth overall. Ahead of them were Williams, who came in first, MIT and Tufts. Ava O'Mara '21 and Lucy Lang '19 both did well in the 600 meter run, getting fourth and fifth place respectively. O'Mara had a time of 1:37.64, while Lang had a time of 1:38.56. In the 800 meter run, Cassie Kearney '22 came in second place with a time of 2:13.36. Behind her were Meg Wilson '20 in fifth place with a time of 2:15.97 and Anna Willig '20 in seventh place with a time of 2:17.61.

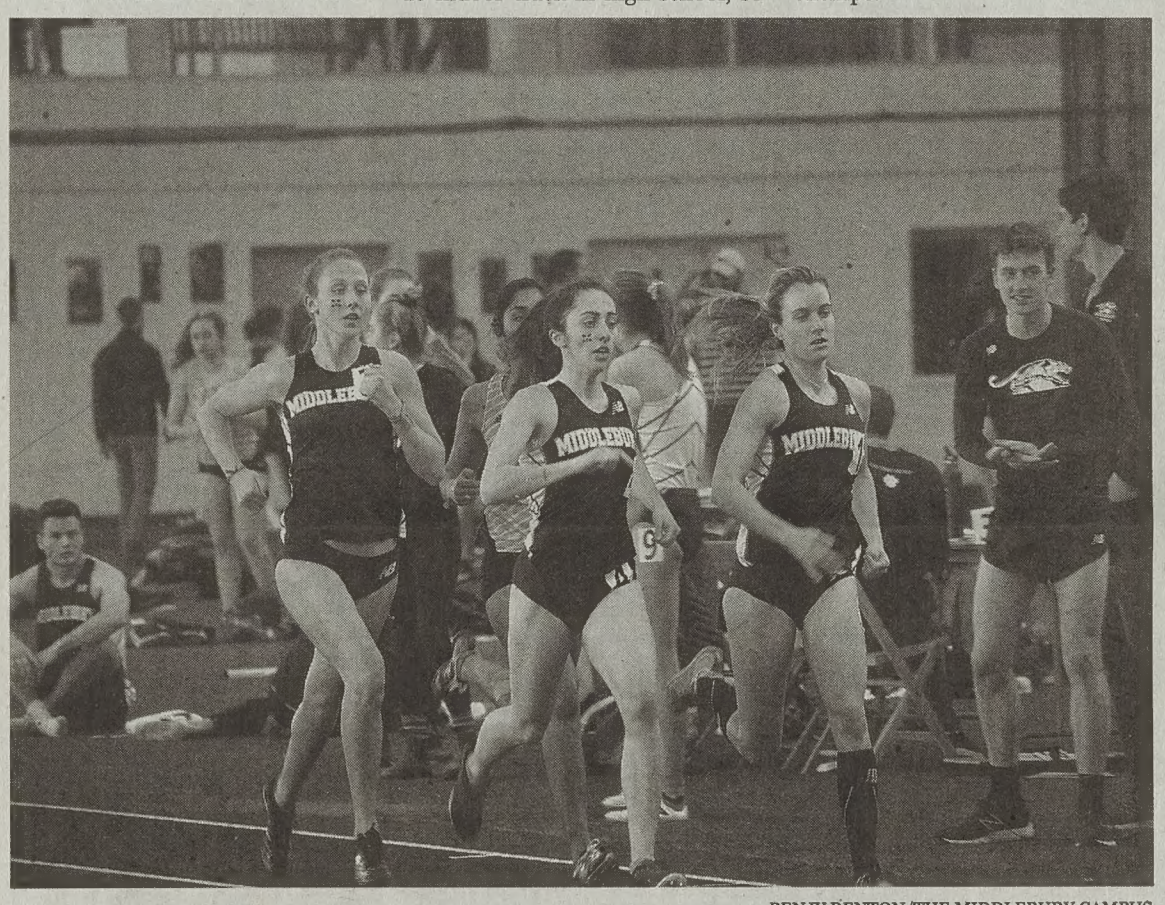
"I felt really great and surprised about my performance in the open 800 race," said Kearney. "I didn't do indoor track in high school, so this sport is new to me and I'm not used to running throughout the winter. I thought that how I did this past weekend really showed how my hard training has paid off over the past few months and I definitely realized the potential I have going further into the postseason."

Katelyn Pease '22 had a time of 2:59.20 which got her sixth place in the 1000 meter run, while Tasha Greene '21 had a time of 5:02.24 which got her fifth place in the one mile run. Kelly came in second in the 3000 meter run as she had a time of 9:47.28. It is also important to mention that the "A" team came in third in the DMR with a time of 11:54.82. This team was composed of Kearney, Kelly, Abigail Nadler '19 and Gretchen McGrath '21.

On her performance in the 3000 meter run, Kelly said, "I was very excited by my 3k on Saturday. It was a challenging race and it was truly my teammates cheering me on every lap that got me through. They were critical to my successful performance."

Perlman concluded by saying, "At this point in the season, we just need to make sure we're feeling rested and ready to compete. We're still hoping to get a few more qualifiers for NCAAs."

Next week, on Saturday, March 2, the Panthers will be competing in the Tufts Last Chance Meet in order to get more qualifiers. After that comes the biggest meet of the indoor season, the NCAA Championships.

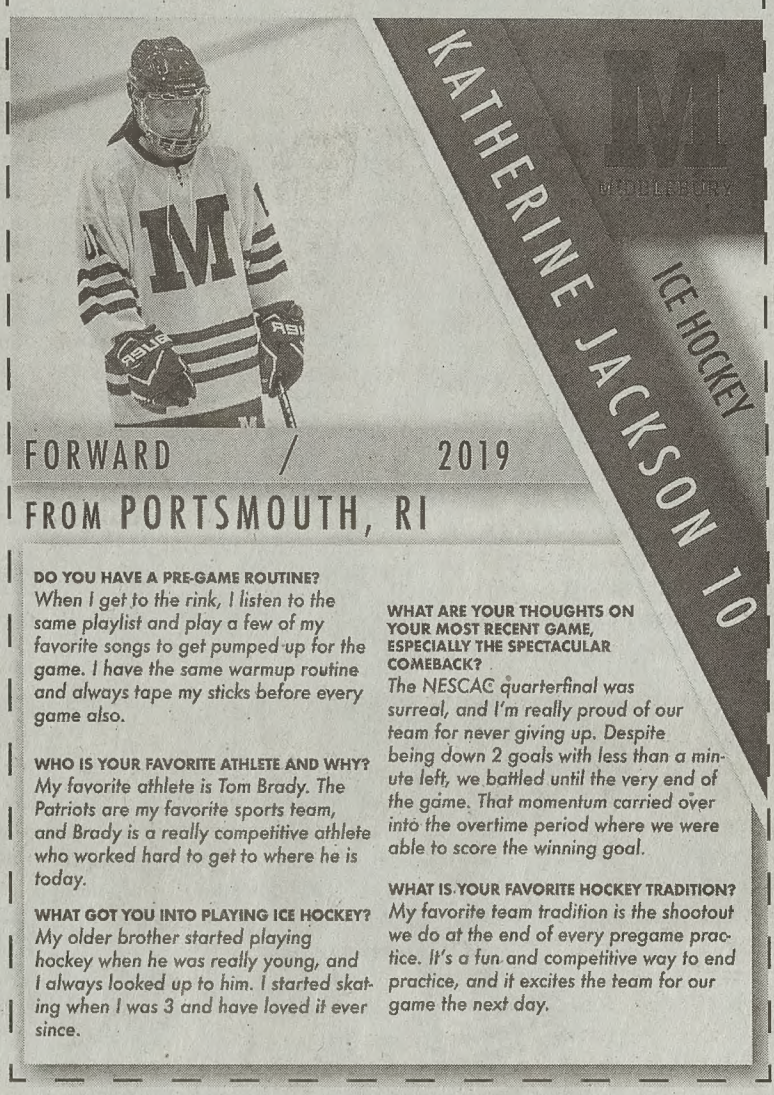


BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Cassie Kearney '22 placed first in the 800 meter run at the Middlebury Team Challenge.

In the Cards

By NICOLE HONG
Sports Editor

The Campus skated around some questions with senior Katherine Jackson.



DO YOU HAVE A PRE-GAME ROUTINE?
When I get to the rink, I listen to the same playlist and play a few of my favorite songs to get pumped up for the game. I have the same warmup routine and always tape my sticks before every game also.

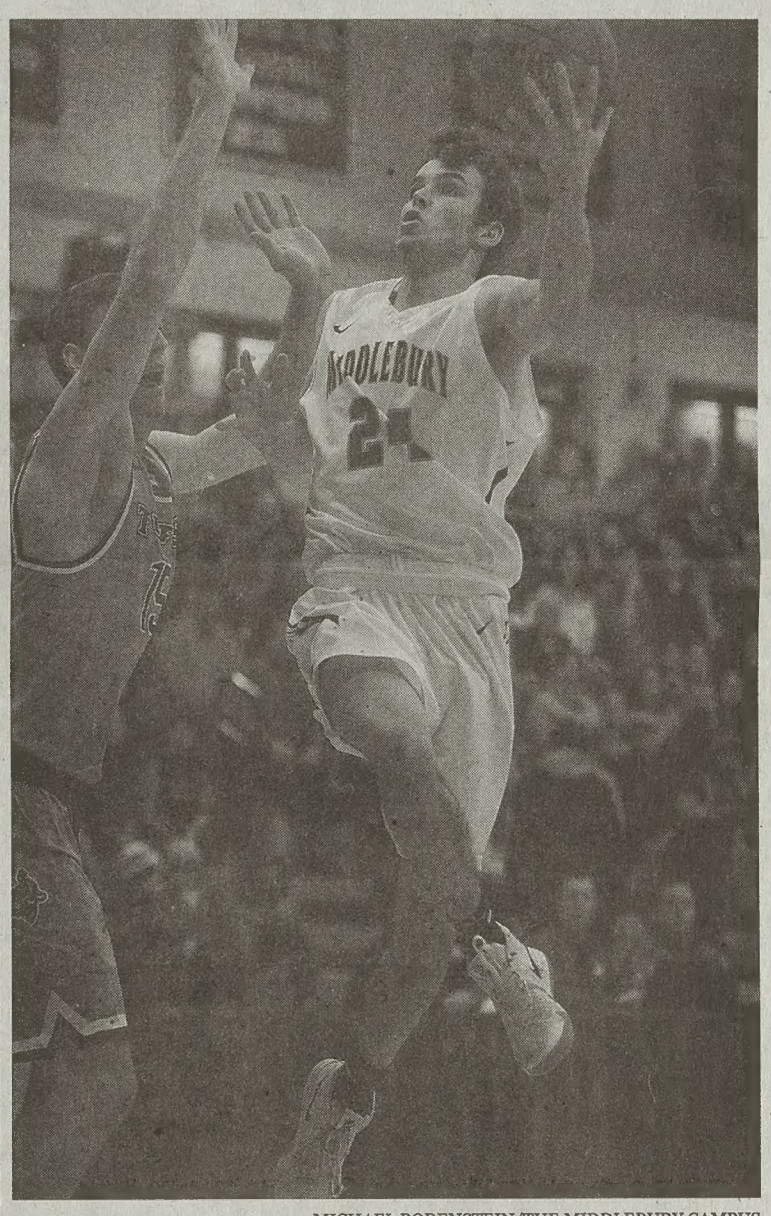
WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ATHLETE AND WHY?
My favorite athlete is Tom Brady. The Patriots are my favorite sports team, and Brady is a really competitive athlete who worked hard to get to where he is today.

WHAT GOT YOU INTO PLAYING ICE HOCKEY?
My older brother started playing hockey when he was really young, and I always looked up to him. I started skating when I was 3 and have loved it ever since.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON YOUR MOST RECENT GAME, ESPECIALLY THE SPECTACULAR COMEBACK?
The NESCAC quarterfinal was surreal, and I'm really proud of our team for never giving up. Despite being down 2 goals with less than a minute left, we battled until the very end of the game. That momentum carried over into the overtime period where we were able to score the winning goal.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOCKEY TRADITION?
My favorite team tradition is the shootout we do at the end of every pregame practice. It's a fun and competitive way to end practice, and it excites the team for our game the next day.

Men's Basketball Receives NCAA Bid



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Middlebury men's basketball team received its 10th overall bid to the NCAA Tournament this past weekend. The Panthers (18-7) are scheduled for a first-round matchup against Nichols College (25-2) at 5:30 p.m on March 1. The tournament will be hosted by Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Women's Squash Defeated at CSA Championships

By EMILY BIAN
Senior Writer

Following a third-place finish at NESCACs earlier this month, the 15th-ranked Middlebury women's squash team headed to the CSA Team Championships this past weekend in hopes to win the Kurtz Cup. The three-day national team championships were hosted by Trinity in the Kellner Squash Center.

Middlebury entered their bracket as a huge underdog as they had to compete in the B Draw against teams ranked nationally 9th-16th. The tough weekend began when they faced 10th-ranked Virginia in the quarterfinals, who the Panthers lost to 9-0 earlier this season. The Panthers did not manage to claim a single point, falling 9-0 again. However, Alexa Comai '19 fought back from a two-game deficit, bringing her match at No.3 to a decisive fifth game, while Natalie Madden '21 managed to claim a game at No.5.

While the Panthers fell to Virginia, their morale and competitive spirit remained high. In the consolation semifinals, they had the opportunity to come out on top against 14th ranked George Washington. During regular season, the Panthers narrowly missed the win in a 5-4 heartbreaking loss, in which all the matches were competitive and tight. The tide changed when Middlebury fought tooth and nail at the CSA Team Championships, defeating the Colonials in a crushing 6-3 win.

Very quickly, the Panthers secured the win by claiming the first five matches. Mira Chugh '20 won by default at No. 9, while Natasha Lowitt '20 doubled the Panther's edge with a three-game victory one spot above over Anna Moscovici (11-4, 11-5, 11-6). At No.6, Anne Glassie '20 scratched her way back from a two-game deficit to tally another point for the Panthers (5-11, 8-11, 14-12, 11-5, 11-7). Comai showed the same spirit in her five-game triumph against Emma Tyron in the third position with a score of 4-11, 6-11, 11-5, 1--6, 11-8. For the match-clinching fifth match, first-year Gwen Davis secured this decisive point via a three-game sweep at No.7 (11-8, 11-3, 11-8).

The Panthers moved on to play Williams, vying for 13th/14th place spot in the national rankings. Unfortunately, they fell by a score of 7-2 on Sunday. The match took place at Wesleyan's Rosenbaum Squash Center and marked the third time this season the two teams have had to play. In the first encounter, the Panthers were victorious at home with a 6-3 win. In the NESCAC Semifinals, they were not as fortunate and fell 6-3.

In a grueling and mentally tough atmosphere, Middlebury unfortunately lost 7-2. The Panthers claimed their first point when Beatrijs Kuijpers '19 won and Davis followed close behind with a five game triumph at No.7 against Kathryn Wright (9-11, 11-5, 11-4, 10-12, 11-9). Many other matches, though did not post a win, were extremely close. At No. 2, Ideal Dowling, a first year with an outstanding first season, fell in a tough four-game match. Virginia Schaus '21 and Chugh followed similar fates.

Reflecting on the tournament and her final season, co-captain Comai states, "This season obviously had its high and low points. I felt that overall the team really came together both on and off the courts."

Coach Lewis agrees. "In the match against George Washington, we put in a really strong performance. Overall the season was good. Every team member had some wins and in their losses hopefully walked away with some valuable takeaways."

Contributing factors to a solid season for the Panthers boiled down to great leadership and strong performances from the underclassmen.

"We had a lot of great first years and sophomores who had an enormously positive contribution to the team and I am excited to see how they can help us to be even better next year," Comai said.

"This year we had amazing leadership under our captain, as well as the rest of the senior class. We feel super grateful for everything that they have done for us and will miss them dearly," Dowling said.

The women's squash team is officially finished with their season, except for a select few competing in the Individual CSA Championship in Providence, Rhode Island Feb. 28-March 2. The tournament will be hosted by Brown and the Moses Brown School.

After a grueling and competitive season, the Panthers undoubtedly deserve a break but are also looking forward to continue training hard, preparing for the next season.

"I think after a little break, we want to try to do a lot of match play and captains' practices this spring to keep our skill and fitness level high. We also want to try to incorporate a lot of mental fitness training this spring and fall in order to allow each of us to be in our best competitive headspace come season," Comai said.

Photos of the Week

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING HOSTS NESCAC MEET

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The men's swimming and diving teams hosted the NESCAC championship meet from Feb. 21 to 24, drawing fans from across NESCAC schools.

Women's Hockey Triumphs with Chilling Win Against Connecticut College

By BRIANNA LIPP
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team was straight fire in a fierce game against Connecticut College on Feb. 23, scoring twice in the final 37 seconds and again in overtime to send themselves to the NESCAC semifinals. After a fast-paced but scoreless first period, the visiting Camels got on the board first, scoring on a power play early in the second period. They scored again just over a minute later to double the deficit for the Panthers. With a minute left in the game, head coach Bill Mandigo pulled junior goalie Lin Han for an extra skater. Senior captain Jenna Marotta sent a wrist shot past the Connecticut College goalie with 36.7 seconds remaining to make the score 2-1. Then, with 16 seconds left on the clock, senior Katherine Jackson took a rebound from junior Sidney Porter's shot and slammed it home.

"I think we just kept thinking in the back of our minds that we can do this," Marotta said. "After we got the first goal, we had some momentum going into the last 20 seconds or so. We were just trying to throw the puck at the net and get some traffic in front of the goalie."

Just over two minutes into the overtime period, a shot by Jackson was deflected by first-year Jenna Letterie and bounced off the Camel goalie, finding sophomore Madie Leidt in front of the net to backhand the rebound in.

"We came into the overtime with a ton of energy, obviously building off the quick two goals to tie the game in the third. Scoring in the first three minutes was surreal," Marotta said about Leidt's team-leading 10th goal of the season. Senior alternate captain Rachael St. Clair added, "That was for sure the most rewarding win I've been a part of in my athletic career."

The victory sends Middlebury to meet Hamilton in the NESCAC semifinals, to be held at Williams College on March 2. Although the Panthers have won both matchups against Hamilton this season, the third-ranked Continentals have won six of their past seven games and look to be a tough challenge.

"Hamilton is a good team and very well-coached," Marotta said. "Our goal is just to stay focused on each and every shift, do the little things and win battles." St. Clair agreed saying, "One step at a time. This weekend's win definitely gives us a boost going into Saturday. We are going to use the momentum and play three solid periods."

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Panthers roar after a movie-worthy win in overtime against the Connecticut College Camels.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Senior captain Jenna Marotta brings fire to the ice rink with her goal in the final 37 seconds.

Ski Teams Pick Up Third At Sunday River

PANTHERS QUALIFY TEAM FOR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS FOLLOWING HOME CARNIVAL WIN

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Middlebury alpine and nordic ski teams returned to action for the first time since their historic carnival win on Feb. 16, finishing third out of fourteen teams at the EISA Championships hosted by Bates. The squad's two biggest rivals, Dartmouth and the University of Vermont, stole the first and second place spots, getting a taste of revenge following last weekend's narrow defeat by the Panthers at the Middlebury Carnival.

Alpine competition took place at Sunday River with harsh conditions chipping away at the Panthers' overall speed. Nordic competition took place at Black Mountain in Rumford. While Middlebury usually finishes just a few points behind their fiercest competitors, the Panthers' combined ski teams came out of the EISA Championships with 758 points, losing to Dartmouth (973) by a hefty 215 points and to the University of Vermont (965) by 207 points. Nevertheless, the team was able to deliver some promising results.

On the men's side, the Panthers placed third outright in the slalom event. First-year standout Tim Gavett paced the team, completing his two runs in 1:52.98 to clinch the sixth overall spot. Next to finish for Middlebury was sophomore Justin Alkier, who was able to crack the top ten, placing ninth in 1:53.46. Senior Max Stamler was the final scorer for the Panthers in the slalom event, securing the 31st spot overall with a time of 1:59.38.

"This weekend's conditions were extremely difficult and made it less likely for our entire team to be fast across the board because there was a lot more room for error," Gavett said. "I think that our team has extremely high ceilings, and simply being able to ski fast and minimize mistakes will allow us to reach our potential and have the ability to consistently win carnivals."

On the women's side, sophomore Lucia Bailey once again proved her ability to consistently occupy top positions, crossing the line in 1:56.14 to place tenth overall. Senior Caroline Bartlett finished second for the Panthers in 1:56.47, which was good enough for 12th place. Rounding out the scoreboard for the women was sophomore Madison Lord, whose two-run time of 1:57.55 gave her a 16th place finish overall.

"In comparison to last week, I would say we didn't perform our best due to challenging conditions," Bailey said. "On a high note, we were able to punch some results in spite of the conditions. We ended the weekend qualifying a full team for NCAA championships!"

The nordic ski performances were nothing short of impressive, with first-year Samuel Hodges achieving a career best in the 20K classic with a time of 53:27. In the same race, the men's team placed second overall. Sam Wood '19 finished first for the Panthers and fifth overall with a time of 53:08, and fellow captain Lewis Nottonson '19 completed the course with a time of 53:26. In the 10K freestyle race the previous day, three racers placed in the top eight including Wood, Nottonson and Peter Wolter '21.

On the women's side, junior captain Annika Landis led the team with a time of in the 45:55 in 15K classic and 13:47 in the 5K freestyle race. Following close behind Landis were Alex Lawson '21 and Avery Ellis '21, with Ellis skiing to the fastest 15K in her career at 46:24.

Landis applauded Ellis' performance, pulling her into the last qualifying spot for the NCAA championship race. Additionally, she praised their consistent placement in the top three. "This consistency I think really speaks to the all around fitness of our team and our ability to dig deep and fight every weekend to give everything we can," she said.

The Panthers will return to the slopes stronger than ever for the NCAA championships on March 6 hosted by the University of Vermont in Stowe, where they are anticipated to finish as one of the top teams. Middlebury has qualified a full team of 12 skiers for the first time since 2008, making the team one of six schools to earn this feat.

Landis has ambitious goals going into the weekend. "I think that Middlebury has the capability to earn the highest points of Eastern schools at NCAAs, especially if we bring the same determination, focus and energy to Stowe that we brought to Midd Carnival," she said. "Additionally, it is a team goal to have an All-American skier (top 10) for men and women, alpine and nordic."

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Avery Ellis '21 and Max Slafer '22 contributed to the ski teams' successes at the EISA Championships.

Women's Hoops Knocked Out in NESCAC, Receives NCAA Bid

By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

After a tight matchup on the road against Trinity for the NESCAC quarterfinals, the women's team looked to ride the wave against Bowdoin in Brunswick. But the women were unsuccessful in their battle against an intimidating number one-seeded Maine team.

Despite a competitive first quarter, the Panthers finished the contest trailing the Polar Bears by more than 20 points. Earlier in the month they narrowly missed the 'dub' by a close margin of four points, falling 58-62. This was their chance to avenge their NESCAC foes, but they fell short and fell hard.

Some Middlebury players showed flashes of greatness on the court. Junior Kira Waldman was one of these women, putting up 17 points for her team. Fellow junior Maya Davis played a crucial role on defense, ripping 11 rebounds from Bowdoin hands.

Though Middlebury fell in the NESCAC semifinals to an undefeated Bowdoin team, the squad has a new goal in sight — the NCAA tournament. The women will not take any moment of this final journey for granted, and plan on going for gold.

Three other NESCAC teams made the NCAA tournament as well, including Tufts (NESCAC champions), Bowdoin and Amherst.

Just a day later, however, the Tufts Jumbos shut down the undefeated Bowdoin — taking the crown and securing a bid into the NCAA tournament. Luckily for the Panthers, three more spots were awarded to NESCAC teams, recognizing the tough competition of the conference.

The Panthers found their way into the tournament for the first time in 21 years, since the 1997-1998 season. This huge feat exemplifies Middlebury's motivation to make it far into the postseason. There is no doubt this team is ready to have fun while competing at the highest level.

The women will begin their road to the NCAA championship this Friday, March 1 against John Carroll in Center Valley, Pennsylvania at 5:00 p.m.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The Middlebury women's basketball team earned its first bid to the NCAA tournament since 1998. The Panthers (19-7) will play John Carroll (22-6) on Friday March 1 in Center Valley, Pennsylvania at 5:00 p.m.